THE FARMERS' CABINET,

AND

AMERICAN HERD-BOOK.

DEVOTED TO

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND RURAL AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

Perfect Agriculture is the true foundation of all trade and industry.—Liebig.

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For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Thaer's Principles of Agriculture—Vegetable Manures.

These may be ranked under the head of negative manures—they do not stimulate, but quietly return to the soil what it has lost by previous exhaustion. They are in no way as active as animal manures, but by acting on the principle of slow, but sure—gradually, but durably, restore all that a soil has lost by bad cultivation, or from being overworked; their decomposition may be hastened by lime, an alkali, or by animal manures. The loss of humus, or mould, is hence certainly,—though it may be more slowly—retrieved by vegetable manures, on letting the land remain in a state of repose, than by any other form of fertilizing. Those scourges of agriculture—weeds—in this way become most excellent fertilizers. If cut before they go to seed, or when in flower, and allowed to decompose, they restore, instead of removing, a portion of fertility—nature thus contrives to compensate the farmer for the injury she menaced, in spreading over his fields those marked indications of his indolence and inefficiency. The ploughing in of green crops has, on the same principle, been found a most valuable mode of returning a soil to a fertile condition, and it is singular that a plan so manifestly correct, has not been more generally adopted. A few farmers in the county of Chester, either from the example of others or the suggestion of their own judgments, have gone back to the principle so long acted on in England, that one grain crop should not follow another, and have undertaken to follow oats with clover, instead of wheat; the clover being ploughed in, renews the strength of the land, and gives back to to it some portion of that which was removed by the preceding crops. This system of ploughing in, or pasturing plants, intended as a manure, is very ancient. It was used by the Romans, and is kept up by the Italians. The practice of sowing the lupin, which one may find commended by Columella, and turning it into the ground, is still employed in Italy. In this country we have oats, Indian corn, and clover, for the same purpose. One of the most beautiful examples of the enriching effects of vegetable decomposition may be seen on an old sod, which has not perhaps been touched by a plough for thirty or forty years. The effect is very different from that usually wrought by time; it looks greener with age, as the

soil becomes more fertile with the decomposition of its own products.

The use of many of the vegetable manures so common in Europe, prevails to a very small extent in this country. The sweepings of the kitchen, soot, chips, rotten saw-dust, tanners' spent bark, and other matters that necessity forces the heavily taxed European to employ, are as a general rule, contemptuously thrown aside by the extravagant American. The facility of getting something to eat, renders him in comparison with the European cultivator, profuse and neglectful of nice cultivation. With the exception of our market gardeners in the immediate neighbourhood of large towns, there is very little economy in the use of manures or the management of land. They, however, or the best and more intelligent among them, make use of every thing that can increase their crops. Competition is too sharp among them to admit of apathy; the periodical returns of rent day, will make them look to their carrots and cabbages. And from some inquiries that we made a few years ago, among the more considerable of them, we found that they did make use of every manure that could be had. The refuse from breweries, sugar refineries, and starch factories, night soil, charcoal, coal dust, street sweepings, tan, and other things, were all applied to the great end of upholding the vegetable character of Philadelphia. Farmers despise this form of cultivating the earth, and of course neglect the means by which it is effected. They seem to prefer much complaining and small profits, to condescending to be nice, and particular, and economical in the management of their estates. Farming is no doubt what may be called a poor business, but it is not wise to make it worse than it ought to be, by a neglect of what may seem, taken singly, as trifles, but which in the aggregate and in their results, are of very great importance. Luck may make more money for a man in one day, than the whole amount of the profits of his farm during a life time. A speculator in stocks or real estate, may realize in one day, more than two hundred years of hard work will give the most honest and most laborious farmer; the president or cashier of a banking institution may plunder the property, with whose care he is entrusted, beggar his thousands, break more hearts, and desolate more firesides, than any conqueror that ever scourged the earth, then review the wretchedness he has made by his villainy, and live in luxury on the spoils. But these are exceptions in the usual course of affairs. Farmers have no reason to desire to imitate or to envy these instances of accidental good fortune or rich rascality. With this slight deviation into the domain of morals, we will return to that of manures. Among the many other substances that lie at the farmer's hand, and which are employed in Europe, are the haulm of peas, beans, and potatoes, mixed when in a green state, with dung, and sea weeds, and pond weeds. Of the first, we know of no separate use, in this country. Of sea weeds, we have known one instance where land, on which we could feel, to its full, the curse of Adam, and on which no one but the most audacious and energetic Yankee could have made a potatoe grow, was brought to a degree of very considerable fertility. Of course, this land was near the sea-shore, and like much of the soil on the iron-bound shores of New England, where our pilgrim fathers very unwisely landed, was composed principally of stones and pine trees. The mud from the bottom of rivers, ponds, and places where stagnant water has remained for any length of time, and the scourings of old ditches, are matters, according to Mr. Thaer, which should be included among vegetable manures. The value of this mud as a manure, he rates very high, but it must not be applied unless perfectly dry, and where it contains much vegetable matter, it should be thrown into heaps until this is decomposed—the process of decomposition may be hastened by lime or fresh horse dung mixed with the mud. Where there is acidity this must be neutralized by animal manures, alkalies, or alkaline substances. In Dana's Muck Manual may be found statements commending the use of this material, and some experiments that bear out these statements, showing its strong action and the high degree of fertility it is capable of producing, even on the thin sandy soils of New England.

A. L. E.

A Large Apple Tree.—The York Republican says, "Our friend, Hugh O'Hail, Esq., of Carroll township, has furnished us with the following dimensions of an apple tree which stands on his land, and which has been much admired for its extraordinary size and fine bearing. About eighteen inches from the ground it measures twelve feet six inches in circumference—about five feet above the surface, eleven feet eight inches. At the height of seven or eight feet it divides or separates into six branches, one of which extends from the central trunk thirty-five feet—two, thirty-three feet, and the others nearly as far. Its greatest height is about fifty-seven and a half feet, and it has frequently borne from sixty to eighty bushels of apples a season by computation.

Smithfield, London.

The great market for cattle, in England, perhaps the greatest in the world, is at Smithfield, in London. This market is principally for fat cattle and sheep, and for cows. It is held weekly, in the centre, and in one of the most crowded parts of this great metropolis. Monday is the day of general sale for fat cattle and sheep; Tuesday for hay and straw; Thursday is again a day of sale for hay and straw; and Friday for cattle, sheep, swine, and particularly for the sale of milch cows, and at 2 o'clock for scrub horses and asses. This day is not so large a market as Monday, and embraces the cattle that were left over on the Monday's market.

The market opens at daylight, at all seasons of the year, and closes at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time every thing, sold or unsold, must be removed. The sheep and swine are enclosed in pens, railed in with wood, and containing seldom more than fifteen sheep in a pen. The cattle, as far as the accommodations will admit, are tied by the horns or neck, to long railings, which extend on the outside of the market-place, and likewise down the centre of the area. Between the rows of animals tied to these rails and facing each other, there is a passage-way; and there are, likewise, open spaces behind them and between them, so as to enable the purchasers to see the stock. In respect to the supernumerary animals, or those for which, for want of room, no tying-place is to be had, they are often driven into small circles, and, by a great deal of severity and cruelty, they are made, after being dreadfully beaten over the head and eyes, to stand with their heads turned in towards the centre of the circle. The poor animals, finding themselves in so novel a situation, stunned with a din and noise which no language can describe, and exhausted by fatigue and terror, are often glad to be let alone, and to remain quiet in situations into which they may be forced, which would otherwise be scarcely endurable. Man is almost sure to be a tyrant, when possessed with absolute power; and there is good reason to believe that he will have a heavy account to settle hereafter with the brute animals which he has most cruelly abused.*

It is obvious that it would be difficult to make any exact assortment, or classification, of the animals in the case, according to their different breeds. The sheep are placed in one part of the market. The cattle occupy another. The cows, and calves, and swine, occupy other separate positions. But no classification of the beasts into the different breeds of Short-horns, Herefords, Devons, or West Highlanders, or Scots, is attempted, although, from the fact that individual farmers generally limit themselves to one species of stock, the contributions of different individuals, standing by themselves, present a sort of classification; and so give a better opportunity to an intelligent observer to compare the different breeds with each other.

Forms of business in Smithfield.—It is not here, as it is with us, that a drover goes through the country collecting, on his route, cattle from the different farmers, as he may chance to find them; but usually the farmer himself sends them to Smithfield, where they are put for sale into the hands of an accredited agent, whose commission for sale is established and understood. This commission is not a percentage upon the amount of sale, but so much per head. These, of course, are persons well known, and whose shrewdness and skill are undoubted. In the most extensive transactions of buying and selling, no paper is passed; but the price of the stock on sale being inquired, if the bargain is struck, the buyer and seller merely touch each other's hand, and there is no retraction. It is highly creditable to the commercial character of the country, and to the general integrity which prevails among the persons concerned in this great market, that, as I am informed by an individual familiar for years with the most extensive transactions in this place, a failure to fulfil these engagements, though no paper is passed between the parties, is of very rare occurrence.

In the sale of sheep and cattle, the business is always transacted through an accredited and established salesman, who has his regular commissions upon every animal sold. The sales are always for cash, unless the salesman himself chooses to assume the responsibility of giving credit, and there are

* It is said that much of the cruelty which was formerly practised in these cases, is now prevented by the influence of the Animal's Friend Society, an Association quite numerous, whose exclusive object is to prevent cruelty to dumb beasts, and thus to protect those who are unable to protect themselves. They have numerous agents, and prosecute, without fear or favour, every case of inhumanity—for it is a great misnomer to call such cases brutality—which comes under their notice, deserving censure or punishment. It is, undoubtedly, greatly owing to their exertions, that the odious practices of cock-fighting and dog-fighting are now not practised; or, if practised, conducted in the most secret manner.

always banking houses in the vicinity to render the usual facilities for business.

The customary commission for the sale of an ox of any value is four shillings, or about ninety-six cents; of a sheep eight pence or sixteen cents. The city receives a toll upon every beast exposed to sale in Smithfield, of one penny per head, and upon sheep at the rate of one shilling or twenty-four cents per score.

The value of the services of an intelligent, experienced, and honest salesman, is very great to the farmer, and much beyond the compensation ordinarily demanded. He is familiar with the state of the market, with the supply to be expected, with the prices generally taken, and with the characters of the persons with whom he has to deal, who know him as well. The farmer, going into the market to sell his cattle for himself, is liable to various impositions, of the extraordinary ingenuity and coolness of which, many experiments will not be necessary to convince him. It might happen, that, instead of returning home with bank notes and sovereigns in his pocket, he might, like Moses in the Vicar of Wakefield, bring back only a quantity of green spectacles.

The state of the market, the current demand, the supply to be expected, together with the state of the dead-meat market, and what supplies of meat already killed are to be expected, are all matters to be taken into calculation. These are all inquired into, and well known to a thoroughly intelligent and experienced salesman, but are very imperfectly understood by any other persons than those who make it their constant business to become acquainted with them. The division of labour is carried to a great extent in all the business pursuits of this great country, and, while it seems unfriendly to that general tact with which persons among us apply themselves to a great variety and diversity of pursuits, must obviously contribute to a high degree of skill or improvement in the particular art or profession where it is applied.

Weights and Measures.—Animals in Smithfield are almost always sold on the hoof; yet an estimate is formed of their weight, and the price given is calculated upon the number of pounds the animal is computed to yield after being slaughtered. The gross hundred weight of one hundred and twelve pounds is still used in England; but the calculations are generally made in stones of eight pounds. By an act of Parliament, the stone of fourteen pounds is required to be adopted in the reckoning in the market; but custom in this, as in many other cases, defies the authority of the government, and eight pounds continue to be reckoned as the Smithfield stone.

The different measures and weights used in different parts of the kingdom are extremely inconvenient, and sadly perplexing to a stranger. The English, the Scotch, and the Irish acre are each different from each other. Grain is, in different places, sold by the bushel, by the quarter, by the comb, by the boll, and by the load; and a load is in some places four, in others three bushels. A Scotch pint is two English quarts. In Covent Garden market, two pottles of strawberries, containing little more than a pint each, are called a gallon. Potatoes are sometimes sold by weight, and sometimes by the barrel; in some places by the stone of fourteen pounds, in some by the stone of sixteen pounds. A dozen of eggs is in some places fifteen. I may perhaps be asked, if this is not in Ireland; but I shall not say, excepting to add, as far as my experience goes, fifteen to a dozen would be a very proper index of Irish hospitality and kindness. In one market, in Yorkshire, a pound of butter is twenty ounces avoirdupois; in Staffordshire, eighteen ounces. In Norwich, butter is sold by the pint; in Cambridge, it is literally sold by the yard, being made into rolls of a certain size, and measured off in feet and inches. In one of our hot days in July, with the glass at 95°, our market-men, at this rate, would have little difficulty in giving full measure. I have already alluded to the force of custom. It has many advantages, but why should it stand in the way of improvement? The prevalence of an unmeaning or a useless custom has nothing to recommend it. Yet I believe I shall be doing no injustice to the English—the last thing certainly which I should wish to do to a people whom I so highly respect and love—if I were to say, many of them greatly prefer antiquity to utility, and will hold on to an ancient custom with the pertinacity of a drowning man, though its meaning has entirely ceased, and its observance is on every account inconvenient and burdensome. With such persons, all argument on the subject of improvement is idle; the conception has never yet dawned upon them.

Such a varying standard of weight, or measure, or value, renders many statements quite unintelligible to a stranger or one ignorant of local customs, and comparisons and calculations all but impossible.

Weight of Animals, mode of ascertaining.—The weight of an animal in Smithfield is reckoned by the weight of the four quarters. The hide, rough tallow, and offal, are not taken into the account. There are rules given by which to determine the

weight of animals, when slaughtered, by external measurement of them when alive. The salesmen in Smithfield do not rely upon these rules, but estimate the weight of cattle by the eye; and mere judgment, founded upon long practice, evinces most extraordinary approaches to exactness, seldom varying but few pounds. The rules, however, to which I refer, have a value to persons who are not accustomed to estimate by the eye; and a series of tables have been constructed upon these rules, which, if they could be relied upon, would be of considerable use in private practice. The girth of the ox—for it does not apply to cows as well as to oxen, as their shape is much less regular—is to be taken directly behind the shoulder, and the length is to be measured from the front of the shoulder-bone to the end of the bone on the rump, where a line dropping down at right angles with the line on the back, would just clear the thigh or buttock. Then, according to a rule given me by Lord Spencer, "Reduce the feet into inches; multiply the girth by the length, and that product by the fraction .001944, which will give the weight in pounds;" or, in another form, as the rule is quoted by Mr. Hillyard, "Estimating the weight of a cubic inch of meat at 171 grains, then girth 7 feet 6 inches, and length 5 feet 4 inches, gives 41,235.84 cubic inches, which, multiplied by 171, gives 7,051,328 grains, equal to 125 stones, 7 lbs., of 8 lbs. to the stone." Another mode of estimating the weight of cattle, is to ascertain their live weight upon a platform balance, common enough in the United States. Then, according to some authorities, every 112 lbs. live weight will produce 72 pounds of beef; but a coarse, large-boned ox, will not produce so much. Another way is to deduct one-third of the live weight, which is commonly deemed a fair allowance; and also if the beast is not quite fat, from 2½ to 5 per cent. in addition. Another able authority states, "that the proportion which the dead weight bears to the live weight of animals was reckoned at one half the live weight; but subsequent experiments in the more improved breed of animals show that this is much too small a proportion, it being more correctly represented by the fractional quantity .605, the weight of the animal being assumed as 1. This would be about three-fifths for the dead weight. The gross weight of the animal being then multiplied by .605, will give the result in the same denomination in which the gross weight is given." It is obvious, however, that such rules can be little more than an approximation to exactness, since the circumstances under which the animal is weighed, whether upon a full or an empty stomach, must essentially affect the result. It will be interesting, I am persuaded, to many of my readers, if I give an account of the weights of some of the most remarkable animals which, within a few years past, have been exhibited at the show of the Smithfield Club, which takes place annually in December; and the account, besides giving the weight of the animals, will show, at the same time, how nearly the weight calculated by rule, and the weight estimated by the judgment of experienced men, corresponded with the actual weight, ascertained upon the animals' being slaughtered.

	YEAR.	GIRTH.		LENGTH.		STONE OF EIGHT POUNDS.		
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	*Computed Weight.*	*Estimated Weight.*	*Butcher's Weight.*
Lord Spencer's Durham ox, ...	1828	9.	2	6.	0	211	210	210
The Scotch heifer, ...	1830	7.	8	5.	7	138	140	138
Mr. Townsend's Durham heifer,	1833	8.	3	5.	9	164	175	176½
Mr. Baker's Durham ox, ...	1833	8.	9½	6.	0	195	205	206½
Mr. Buckley's Hereford ox, ...	1833	7.	11	5.	5	143	150	144
Lord Spencer's Durham ox, ...	1834	9.	7	6.	1	236	240	236
Lord Oxford's Hereford ox, ...	1834	9.	4	5.	10	214	222	
Mr. Hillyard's do. heifer, ..	1834	8.	7	5.	7	175	184	192
Lord Brownlow's do. do.	1834	8.	0	5.	9	155	164	
Marquis of Exeter's do. do.	1835	7.	11	5.	0	134	138	142½
Lord Spencer's do. do.	1835	7.	8	5.	3	130	138	
Lord Spencer's Durham ox, ...	1835	9.	2	6.	0	211	218	210
Lord Spencer's do. do.	1836	9.	2	6.	1	215	222	218
Marquis of Tavistock's do. do.	1836	8.	10	5.	8	187	196	
Lord Leicester's Devon ox, ...	1837	8.	1	5.	2	142	145	152
Mr. Giblet's one year old Devon,	1837	8.	4	5.	5	158	162	166.4
Mr. Bakers' heifer, ...	1837	7.	11	5.	6	148	152	152.3
Mr. Hillyard's Devon ox, ...	1838	8.	1	5.	2	142	142	139.6
Marquis of Exeter's Durham ox,	1841	8.	9	5.	9	185	185	185
Duke of Bedford's Hereford ox,	1841	8.	9	5.	9	185	185	180

The practice at Brighton, Massachusetts, is to sell the animal at a certain rate per pound, or per hundred pounds. The animal is then slaughtered, and the return of his weight made to the owner or drover. The owner or drover does not see his animal killed or weighed. The market takes place on Monday, but he is commonly detained until Thursday, before the weight of the animal is ascertained, and he receives his pay. This, besides its expense, is on every account a serious evil. It cannot be denied, likewise, that the temptations to a fraudulent return of the weight are very strong, and that much dissatisfaction, very often without question, groundless, frequently arises. It is surprising how near to exactness the judgment of an intelligent and experienced man approaches; but as this method is liable to the objection of a man's being judge in his own case, it would seem very desirable that some less exceptionable method should be adopted. I can think of no one more eligible than that of ascertaining the live weight on a platform balance, and then adopting some general rule as to the allowance to be made for the difference between the live and the dead weight. A rate of discount or allowance, founded upon repeated and exact experiments, would be equally fair for both parties. The adoption of such a rule would be of the greatest service in enabling the drover or owner to close his business in one day, and would, in general, be much more satisfactory to the farmer, who sends his cattle to market, and is not always without his suspicions of an imperfect return. I offer these suggestions with great diffidence, especially when I read, in a letter addressed to me by a practical man, "that there is no mathematical rule upon which he places any reliance; that he has often been invited to test the correctness of measuring beasts, and also to determine their dead, from ascertaining their live weight, but has found that no confidence can be placed upon such rules." He adds, "that after handling beasts to ascertain their fatness, the mind, by practice, is intuitively impressed with about the weight of the four quarters, exclusive of any offal; and that experienced men can tell the weight of beasts, on an average, within three stone of eight pounds, and of sheep within two pounds." I believe all this; and it presents a beautiful example of what the mind is capable of, and of what it may be brought to under careful training and long practice. We certainly know that the mind is a very good clock, and measures the time with wonderful exactness, both sleeping and waking. I have been often struck with the extraordinary precision with which the poor blind horses, which move the ferry-boat between Troy and the Albany side of the river, measure the distance which they have come, and after making a pause just before they touch the opposite shore, seem to know exactly how many more strokes or turns to give to the paddles, in order to reach it. I hope I shall not offend the pride of any of my readers, by this comparison of the brute with the human mind. Man is very apt to think himself the only knowing animal upon the earth; and I have no doubt that some of the lower animals have the same self-conceit. It is interesting to see reason and moral sentiment, the noblest gift of Heaven, any where diffused, and even in the most humble forms. Such indications strengthen the claims which all sentient beings have upon our kindness and respect; and several of the lower animals—if any being is to be considered inferior who accomplishes the true purposes of his creation—read many striking moral lessons to mankind.

The character of a salesman in Smithfield market, for judgment and integrity, is of immense importance to him. He is forbidden by law to purchase on his own account; and it is clearly most important that his private interest should not conflict with that of his employer. But it is easy to see the futility of all laws to make men honest, where evasions in a variety of forms are so practicable. Personal character, and a healthful state of public opinion, form, in such cases, the great security.

Amount of business.—The amount of business transacted in Smithfield is enormous. It is estimated at not less than £100,000, or half a million of dollars, every week. The Smithfield market is certainly one of the great sights of London. The returns of the market on the Christmas week of 1844, when I was present, gave 5000 beasts and 47,000 sheep. This was considered the largest market ever remembered; and the extraordinary quantity of stock was doubtless, in some measure, to be attributed to the severe drought of the preceding summer, and the consequent scarcity of fodder, which compelled the farmers to lessen their stock. The largest return of stock ascertained for any year, between the years 1821 and 1842, was in the year 1838, and was,

Of cattle,	183,362
Of sheep,	1,403,400

In the year 1830, there were sold in Smithfield,

Beasts,	159,907
Sheep,	1,287,071
Pigs,	254,672
Calves,	22,500

In the year 1842,

Of cattle,	175,347
Of sheep,	1,468,960

The supplies since that have not diminished. But this by no means comprehends the whole supply of provision to London, as immense amounts of slaughtered meat are brought constantly to the dead market, from distant parts of the kingdom, by the innumerable steam conveyances, which have so much increased the facilities of access to the metropolis. We need scarcely be surprised at any distance from which it may be brought, since I have seen Leicester or Southdown mutton, killed and dressed in England, for sale in the market at Boston. In spite of the doctrines of restricted or free trade, the benevolent mind cannot help rejoicing in a facility of intercourse, which renders the mutual interchange of the respective advantages and blessings of different countries and climates so convenient, and thus does away forever with all that fear of want or famine which, in former times, so often followed any extraordinary contingency of the seasons. The quantity of meat, and that principally mutton, brought from six different ports in Scotland to London, was ascertained in one case, to be about 2364 tons in six months; besides a very large amount of live stock. It has probably greatly increased with the opening of every new means of conveyance.

The friend to whom I am indebted for much of the above information in regard to Smithfield, states the average weekly sale of beasts in Smithfield at about 3000, and of sheep, about 30,000; of calves, about 300; of pigs, about 500. At the dead market, about 3000 sheep are sold weekly. Of the live stock, the beasts average from £15 to £18 per head, and sheep 30 shillings. A pound in this case may be most conveniently reckoned at five dollars, and a shilling, therefore, at a quarter of a dollar. The average age of beasts sold in Smithfield is from two to three years, and of sheep from fifteen months to two years. It is not to be supposed that these returns by any means embrace all the beasts slaughtered, or the meat consumed in the metropolis and its vicinity; for great numbers are sold before they reach the market, and are therefore not reported. Vast amounts, likewise, are imported from Ireland; and the cotters of this fertile but wretched country, where a large portion of the inhabitants are, for a considerable part of the year, upon the borders of starvation, are obliged to see their only pig—the companion and pet of their children—and their only calf or steer, sent off to other markets to fill other mouths. Smithfield, though much the largest, is only one of the markets of the country; but the immense supplies which are here furnished must give some idea of the improvement and degree of perfection of the agriculture of a country from which they are drawn.

The poultry markets, and the markets for game, are also most extensive. The fish markets in London seem to me unsurpassed for their excellence, and certainly embrace a great variety of the very best kinds. These, of course, furnish their full proportion of the supplies of London.

Mr. Morris's Corn Crop.

Mr. Cabinet,—That is a thundering crop of corn of Mr. Morris's—see page 115, of your last No. If it were not for the respectability of the names attached, I should be inclined to suspect its correctness I must confess, without, however, meaning to call in question any one's veracity. It may also be suggested, that the mode of measurement is not precisely what might be wished; nevertheless when all is said, there remains proof sufficient to speak volumes in praise of the land, its management, and the plough, which I am pleased to find the owner has the "magnanimity" to permit to come in for a share of the merit. I had expected to find that the land had been turned in the autumn, and am inclined to believe if it had, the average of the field would have equalled its greatest yield "in some parts;" so strong an advocate am I for fall or autumnal ploughing, when properly executed. But this can never be done by the cutting or the Concave ploughs, which lay their furrows too close and flat for winter fallow; for as the rains cannot penetrate the earth, but must therefore pass off by the surface, washing and carrying away its finer particles at every flood, and leaving the soil flat and hard in the spring, quite unfit for seeding without another ploughing, which is sure to let up the weeds by tens of thousands, to cope with the crop from the time of its germinating, the most ruinous effects are sure to follow, and are the cause of the very general disuse of fall ploughing. Not so, however, after the Centre-draught plough has pulverized the furrow-slice to the depth it is turned, and thrown it up high and dry, filling the furrow with broken earth, upon which the next furrow-slice is deposited and kept from falling flat on the bottom of the furrow, there to stick, and operate on the principle of capillary attraction, by drawing and retaining moisture from the subsoil

all winter, to the drowning out of the spring crops.

I remember the time when I considered the *dirty furrow* left by the Prouty plough, with the rough and undermined edge it cuts in passing, unpardonable defects! but an extra dozen bushels of corn per acre the present year, have convinced me that they are its chief recommendations; after which comes the substantial fact, that to this looseness of the soil is attributable, in the afterworking of the crop, a saving of one half the labour, and the destruction of weeds innumerable. We see in the case of Mr. Morris, that "the whole field being remarkably clean and free from weeds, and the soil in a mellow and friable condition," is noticed by the committee on examination, and made matter of commendation; while Mr. Morris observes: "This field, when the *ploughing* was finished, owing to the open and pulverized appearance of the sod, and the interstices between the furrows being all filled up, allowing no grass or weeds to be seen, resembled one already *harrowed*, and continued mellow through the season"—precisely the characteristics of the working of the Centre-draught plough, and discernible to every practiced eye, even from a distance.

But to those who have witnessed the ploughing done the present autumn on the farms of Mr. Isaac Roberts, of Spring Mill, and his near neighbour, Mr. Cresson, to add another word in praise of the Prouty & Mears' plough, or the perfection of fall ploughing, will appear quite superfluous. It is only to watch the results of such admirable management and *premium ploughing*, when conviction of its importance will follow, as naturally as the effect follows the cause.

D. W.

Conshehocken, Nov. 26th, 1845.

Extracts from J. Dungan's Address,

Before the Bucks County Agricultural Society, Tenth month 16th, 1845.

According to some recent experiments, a crop of potatoes extracts from the soil twenty times as much potash, seven times as much soda, fourteen times as much lime, and nearly three times as much phosphoric acid, as a crop of wheat. Turnips a much larger proportion than potatoes; clover hay, fourteen times as much potash, twenty-four times as much lime, ten times as much sulphuric acid, and nearly three times as much phosphoric acid. If the results of those experiments are correct, potatoes and turnips should never be cultivated in a soil, the inorganic basis of which is deficient; and contrary to the common impression, clover, notwithstanding its fertilizing qualities in some respects, is an impoverisher of the land, if not consumed on the farm, or even if consumed and the manure left in a condition for the alkalies, phosphates and other salts to be leached out of it by the rains. Clover meliorates and supplies the soil with a large amount of vegetable matter, hence it is a cheap and an efficient fertilizer, when there is a good inorganic basis; but when there is a deficiency of potash, lime, sulphuric and phosphoric acid, it must in the long run, if removed from the soil, have an impoverishing tendency.

The soil in this country, is evidently exhausted, to a great degree, of some of the elements requisite to a luxuriant growth of clover. It flourished some years since much better than it does now, notwithstanding our superior care in cultivating and manuring the soil. Lime and plaster we are in the habit of supplying. The heavy crops which follow the application of those manures have exhausted the soil to a very great extent, of other indispensable inorganic constituents. As an evidence of this fact, we have seen clover which had been sown on oats, after corn, which had been ashed in the hill, flourishing on the hills from the effects of the ashes, whilst between the hills the land was entirely bare. The combustion of vegetables dissipates all their organic constituents: but ashes contain all the inorganic elements which have entered into their growth: hence the striking effect of its application to some soils, proves conclusively that those soils are very deficient in some of those elements.

Many farms in this county have been seriously injured by deep ploughing, the practice having been adopted in consideration of its favourable effects on soils differently constituted. There is still a difference of sentiment among us in relation to this matter, notwithstanding all the experiments known to me, tend to establish the fact, that deep ploughing impoverishes nearly all the veins of land in this district of country.

In support of this, we have the evidence of many of the best and most successful farmers in this county. One of the vice-presidents of this Society, whose large and well managed farm is perhaps unrivalled in fertility, testifies that his land cannot be beneficially ploughed more than four inches deep. Our agricultural periodicals, so extensively useful, have done some injury by their indiscriminate and unqualified advocacy of deep ploughing. I am so well assured of the correctness of the view I have presented in relation to this matter, that I can commend it, with entire confidence in

its good practical results, to the consideration and adoption of the farming community.

The prejudice against the use of lime and plaster has been overcome with difficulty, notwithstanding the striking effects of their early application. The objection to those mineral manures, that they would stimulate the soil to a fruitfulness which would soon exhaust it, is not altogether unfounded, provided care is not taken to keep up a supply of other minerals, which are indispensable elements in the basis of the vegetable kingdom. Lime and plaster do not only enter into the composition of plants, but they have an agency in evolving other mineral elements, as well as securing to the soil the aerial constituents, carbonic acid and ammonia. Quick lime, however, we should remark, expels ammonia, and should not, therefore be mixed with manure, either in compost beds or in the soil. Wheat crops have been frequently injured in consequence of the dissipation of ammonia by the application of quick lime with manure. Plaster has the opposite effect. Most of the plaster used on our farms would be first well employed as an agent in fixing the fertilizing gases in the manure. I have known rich loams—soils containing an abundance of soluble vegetable matter, much injured by the use of fresh lime. But the fertility of fresh lands, or soils which from any cause, contain a large amount of partially decomposed vegetable and animal matter would be increased and preserved by the use of plaster. It facilitates decomposition and at the same time fixes the ammonia in the soil. To escape any injury from the use of lime as a manure, and to insure its best effects, the safest general rule is to spread it on grass lands and leave it a considerable length of time exposed to the atmosphere.

Taste around our Farm Buildings.

A copy of an Address delivered at *Rome*, N. Y., on the 9th of Ninth month last, before the Oneida County Agricultural Society, by *Elon Comstock*, its President, has been forwarded. The following extracts are made from it, with an apprehension that they may possibly serve as valuable hints to some of our readers.—Ed.

There is great need of improvement in every thing pertaining to the arrangements of our buildings and grounds, including the general plan of the farm, for strange as it may sound to some, there is as much propriety in laying out a farm in just proportions, and in fields of suitable shape and size, and with direct reference to the convenience of approaching the buildings, &c., as there is in bestowing upon the streets and public grounds of the village or city, like attention. It costs no more, and not unfrequently much less expenditure, to do these properly, and so as to give the whole farm an attractive and pleasing appearance, than to lay it out in such a manner as to render it repulsive to the man of taste and refinement.

The same remarks will apply with equal force to the erection of dwellings, and the laying out of the garden and grounds in their vicinity. In the country, where land is cheap, the farmer can well afford an acre of ground to devote to the convenience and pleasure of his family, and especially when this same acre may be made to produce grass equal to any other part of the farm, besides affording room for the trees and shrubbery which should be planted in the vicinity of every farm house. An acre of ground is none too much to devote to these purposes, and in making arrangements for building, the farmer should in my judgment, appropriate at least that amount, exclusive of that needed for the garden and other useful purposes. An acre of ground on most farms will not exceed in value fifty dollars, and to ornament it with trees and shrubbery, may perhaps cost nearly as much more, but when we take into account the produce which may be obtained from it if properly managed, there is really very little loss to the farmer in a pecuniary view.

Grapes.—As there appears an increasing disposition to grow the finer kinds of grapes under glass, allow me to call attention to a very simple method I have seen practiced with success. Your vines being established in some eligible place, dig a pit to the depth of five feet; about the first of March fill it within two feet of the surface with fresh horse manure—introduce your vines and shut the sashes close till the heat arises; after the vines begin to break, regulate the heat by admission of air—be careful to cover the glass at night until all danger of frost is past—the moist heat from the manure is far preferable to fire heat—and if the manure is well incorporated with oak leaves, the heat will be more moderate and last longer; by the time the heat from the manure is exhausted, there will be sufficient of *sun* in this fine climate to perfect the crop. Constant attention, and a knowledge of the culture of the vine under glass is of course necessary, ten minutes neglect would ruin the whole.—*Farmer and Mechanic.*

Every farm should own a good farmer.

Fall Ploughing—Dorking Fowls.

We give the following extract of a letter from Beaufort, with a hope that it may draw forth the information called for.—Ed.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet:

Sir,—I see October or fall ploughing highly recommended as a preventive of the wire worm, which I believe is the same as what is known among us as the heart worm, from its piercing the young corn to the heart below ground, and causing the centre leaves to die; after which the plant never comes to any thing. I have found that soaking my seed in a saturated solution of saltpetre from twelve to thirty-six hours, a certain preventive of every worm except the cut, or brown worm, which does no perceptible, if any harm, even when it cuts off the corn above ground. It also acts as a manure in the early stage of its growth, thereby shortening the time it is exposed to the depredation of birds. One year that I had no saltpetre, an excellent stand of early corn was ruined by the heart worm, which will show you that I have them in abundance.

I have a breed of fowls which are about the size of the Malay, with yellow plumage and legs also, but their legs are short, and they are not liable to the gout, as the Malays are. They are bad layers, laying but few eggs, and those small in proportion to their size; inveterate setters, but poor mothers, as they kill most of their chickens from their weight, and the chickens are long in coming to maturity. Are these the Bucks county fowls? Are the Ostrich or Booby fowls to be procured in or about Philadelphia? and at what price? Information on these subjects would much oblige me and probably others. I have for two years tried a few black Poland hens, with a golden Poland cock, but have found them rather smaller than our common dunghill fowl, not better layers, and much more delicate and hard to raise. Though pretty, I find them unprofitable, and mean to abandon them. I am afraid of the Dorking, as their legs are short and white. Short legs are a disadvantage, as chickens are more easily injured by the dew in the morning, and *green* legs indicate firmness and fineness of grain, and juiciness of meat, while the Dorkings have white. I wish to raise for my own eating only, therefore wish only good ones. If there is any dealer in fancy poultry in Philadelphia, you may put this part of my letter into his hands, and let him answer me direct, if you do not wish to insert the information in your columns.

Yours respectfully, R. C.

Beaufort, S. C., Nov. 1st, 1845.

Green Crops for Stock.

We are quite of the opinion that our farmers give too little attention to the sowing of corn, oats, &c., broadcast, to cut and feed to their cattle in a green state. It is a pretty well established fact, that there is great economy in it; and why should we not avail ourselves of a practice that enables us to economise in our land and in its valuable products? If the soiling system, where only the ordinary, natural or artificial grasses are used, is to the advantage of the farmer who manages rich land, how abundantly advantageous must be the reliance, to a certain extent, upon corn, &c., to him who manages poor land? more stock may be kept in summer, and more may be kept in winter, because more grass land is afforded for the scythe—to say nothing about the increased quantity of manure that is thus secured. It is true this is not the season of the year to practice what we are recommending—but another year will come, and then let farmers bear it in mind. The article below, taken from the Massachusetts Ploughman, well deserves a thought.—Ed.

Captain Randall, of New Bedford, has recently published in the N. E. Farmer an account of the weight of his corn sown broadcast on a couple of acres and some rods. He says 35 tons of manure were spread upon each acre. Ten bushels of white, flat, Maryland corn were sown on two acres and thirty-two rods. The whole was well ploughed and repeatedly harrowed, and a heavy roller was applied. Three separate rods of this corn were cut and weighed, and the average weight per rod, was 388 lbs. This gives between 31 and 32 tons per acre, sown broadcast, very highly manured and land well prepared.

We think 40 tons per acre may be grown by sowing in drills, but the labour would be more, though the seed would not cost one quarter as much. Captain Randall says he fed out this corn from two acres and thirty rods to twenty cows, three other cattle, and five calves, and it kept them seven weeks and five days with what they could pick in a dry pasture. And he is fully satisfied that this corn was equal to 15 tons of the very best of English hay.

But we think Captain R. puts a wrong estimate on this fodder from his corn-field. Fifteen tons of hay would keep his stock through half the winter without any aid from the pasture ground, yet with all his stock could bite, bushes and all, his corn kept his stock but one-third of the time that cattle are fed in winter.

Cattle will find something in the dryest pasture, and will partially fill themselves there, even though you feed out the richest products of the farm.

Again, the two acres and thirty-two rods of ground, with this high manuring, would

have produced this season 160 bushels of shelled corn, besides all the stalks and husks. This corn bealt out in meal would make an allowance of 6⅔ bushels to each of the 24 cattle for seven weeks and five days—or 213 quarts of meal to each. That is, about three quarts of meal per day for each animal, besides the husks and stalks. Should we not think it costly feeding to give out so much in addition to what could be obtained in the pasture?

We wish to see more experiments made on feeding out green corn, and we therefore make these remarks on the experiment of Captain Randall.

The Wheat and Indian Corn Crop of 1845.

The aggregate crops throughout the U. States form a subject of congratulation for every lover of his country. The wheat crop alone for the present year, is estimated at 125,000,000 of bushels. The wheat crop of 1842, which was the largest ever previously raised in this country, was 103,000,000 bushels. The increase of 22,000,000 shows not less the large additional amount of land brought under cultivation, than the genial character of the last summer.

The crop of Michigan is comparatively larger than that of any other State in the Union. With a population of not over 400,000, she raises this year at least 7,000,000 bushels of wheat. The quality is also of the very best. The Wolverines are glorying in their abundance, and they say they can furnish Europe with all the bread she may need. The Central rail-road now brings down to Detroit 10,000 bushels of wheat daily, but the supply is so very heavy at Marshall and the other depots at this busy season, that the motive power cannot take it off as fast as the forwarders require. This will give some idea of the production of Michigan. The recent advance in prices will most fortunately afford a fair profit to the producer, and thus with an immense crop he reaps a high price—which fortunate combination is all that is wanted to ensure a sound and enviable prosperity.

In 1844, the amount of Indian corn raised, according to the best calculations, was about 425,000,000 of bushels. Commenting upon this subject, the Albany Argus says:—

"The half-starved operatives of Europe may well look at the returns with glistening eyes, for it affords 22 bushels of corn alone for every man, woman and child in this country. Indian corn will rarely bear exportation, and therefore but little is carried abroad. It is nearly all consumed at home. Our cattle enjoy an abundance of that food which would be deemed a luxury in Europe. Such is the prolific fertility of our soil and the extent of production under the competition of freemen.

Egypt was once called the granary of the world, but America in the extent of its wheat production, as well as the superiority of its quality, will throw into the shade even the fables of Herodotus.—*Bicknell's Reporter.*

Making and Saving Manures.—Several interesting and useful volumes have been written on the management and application of farm-yard manure. I can say little more on this subject this time than give the opinion that we manage the whole affair in a most wasteful and unscientific manner generally. Instead of saving carefully every solid and liquid substance about our premises, and by combining them with bog muck, the sediment of bogs and ditches, parings from the road-side, loam from the woodlands, and decaying vegetables, making them leaven the whole lump, with the addition of ashes, soot, plaster, lime, salt, &c., we suffer thousands of loads to be exposed to sun and rains, which dissipate the most valuable portions, and impoverish our means of prosperity.

Every family who uses a barrel of soft soap in a year, may saturate two cords or four ox-cart loads of loam with suds and filth of the wash-room, which would be a good top-dressing to an acre of grass land, or half an acre of wheat. I could speak of other wastes which happen about almost every house, which if they were saved, and properly composted, would manure in the State of Maine, 100,000 acres of wheat. In China, almost no cattle are kept, and no dependence placed on barn-yard manure. Their sole resort is to compost, formed from the refuse matter about human dwellings, and the most of that land which sustains 300,000,000 human beings is a garden.—*Dr. Bates' Ad.*

Curious Facts in Grafting.—I have just visited an orchard of Mr. Jeremiah Lambertson, Flushing, L. I., and was shown a small apple tree, into which in April, 1844, thirteen grafts of different kinds were inserted, all sweet, and all ripening about the same time, in the latter part of July. On one of the grafts of the strawberry variety, of about twenty inches growth, there had grown eight fine strawberry apples. The graft had two branches, on one of which six beautiful apples hung in one cluster, on the other there were two, each nearly as large as a hen's egg.—*American Agriculturist.*

Visit to the Farm of Hon. Daniel Webster, Marshfield.

We have been gratified by a visit to the farm of this distinguished statesman, and had the pleasure of holding converse with him as a farmer in his retirement, and who, by his urbane and friendly manner makes one almost forget that he is in the presence of one of the greatest intellects of the age. As a public man, he is well known, but not as a citizen and "the Farmer of Marshfield"—at home, on his farm, or among his neighbours. Here the mind is unbent—the stirring scenes of political life are apparently thrown aside and forgotten, and the farmer may approach him on equal ground, and however experienced he may be in the one pursuit of his life, he will find Mr. Webster at home on the subject of agriculture, with a disposition as ready to impart, as he is to receive information, on a business which appears to be more his pleasure than his profit. But if his farming does not result in pecuniary profit, he has the satisfaction—which, in a mind like his, is prized far higher than pecuniary gain—of countenancing and encouraging by his example, the great agricultural interests of the nation, as well as the influence he exerts on all suitable occasions to promote them.

His farm is extensive, and that we might have the best opportunity to see every part of it, his foreman with a carriage, was at our service, to take us over it, and explain the various operations and experiments that are in progress. Mr. Webster also devoted a portion of the time we remained on the farm, in pointing out to us the improvements he had already made, as well as those he had in contemplation, and related many interesting incidents in the history of the family of the original proprietors of his farm, and of events which transpired in the early history of this ancient town.

Mr. Webster's farm contains about *fifteen hundred acres*. This large area embraces a great variety of soil, about 300 acres of it salt marsh, the remainder very diverse: some portions of it may be considered of first quality, other sections medium, and some of it rather inferior; but none so poor that good crops cannot be produced with good manuring. The situation is a fine one for a stock farm—and if good prices for good beef and mutton could be obtained, it might be a profitable farm for that purpose. What adds much to the value of the place is, the facility with which sea manure can be obtained. It is said that there are seven miles of beach, reckoning all the indentures and various outlines of the shore which skirts the farm. Here large quantities of kelp are annually obtained, and in some seasons white fish to any extent are caught. With these natural resources so near at hand, the farm is rapidly increasing in value and productiveness. Wherever these fertilizing substances have been applied their beneficial effect is obvious. A large portion of the farm is devoted to pasturage, which feeds not only Mr. Webster's large stock of cattle, but many others of his neighbours, which are pastured by the week or by the season.

The mansion house of Mr. Webster makes quite an imposing appearance as it is seen from the road, having recently been fitted up and large additions made to the old part, which was originally a square house, two and a half stories high, with a wing extending back: a wing containing a suit of rooms, including a spacious library, has been added, making an extensive front, with a piazza the whole length, extending round the ends of the building and part of the rear. The old and new parts of the building harmonize very well. Comfort, convenience and neatness are more conspicuous in the arrangement than any effort at display. The mansion is situated thirty or forty rods from the public road, and is approached by a broad drive way, bordered by a hedge and belt of trees and shrubs. In front of the house is a fine lawn of five or six acres, dotted with trees in groups and single, and ornamented near the dwelling with fanciful beds of flowers, cut out in the smooth sward. But the most striking object which meets the eye at first sight, is a majestic elm tree, near the east corner of the house, which forms a complete bower. It stands on an oval grass plot, which makes a fine carpet for the bower. At a distance of eight or ten feet from the ground the branches extend in every direction horizontally, gently curving over till they rest upon the green sward, excepting on the side next to the house, where it has been necessary to cut out some of the lower limbs, that carriages may pass to the eastern door. The branches on this side nearly touch the house, and form a complete canopy to this entrance. The longest diameter of this tree bower is 94 feet—perhaps 70 the other way. Seats are arranged around the tree near the trunk, where is a most delightful retreat, especially in such a day as was that when we enjoyed its shade, the thermometer indicating the heat as near 90 degrees. The tree is said to have been planted eighty years ago.

The section of the farm on which the house stands, contains about 40 acres, and is bounded on three sides by a wide belt of young trees, through which there is a winding walk. In this area are included the

lawn in front; to the west, the orchard; in the rear, grass, and a large fish pond, ornamented with a boat moored upon its surface, which an apprentice boy, while engaged in painting the house, took a fancy to convert into a mimic man-of-war; to the east, an extensive fruit, vegetable, and flower garden, of three or four acres; and beyond this a conical hill, crowned with a summer house. When we visited this farm five years ago, this hill had the appearance of a miserable gravel-knoll, with a few stinted shrubs and trees. It was now covered by a luxuriant growth of young trees and shrubs, 10 to 12 feet high—among them many locust and other trees which had been raised from seed, and other species which had been transplanted. The belts had been formed in the same way. In rear of the garden, and at the foot of the hill, is an extensive poultry-yard, well stocked with every variety of domestic fowls, with a pond for the accommodation of the aquatic tribes. In the rear of the house, at the north-east angles, are carriage houses, stable and other outbuildings, and a little further back, a large and well constructed barn.

From the piazza of the house, beyond the belt of trees, and on rising ground, in a westerly direction, the eye rests upon extensive fields of grain, roots, &c.; southerly, a sheep pasture, in which we saw the Leicester sheep, and further to the east, woodland.

The house of the head farmer is seen to the east, as the visitor enters the avenue to the mansion, and back of it, extensive ranges of cattle yards, piggery and sheds, and another fine large barn, now in the process of building, and nearly finished. There is no cellar under the barn, but Mr. Webster has hit upon a method to save every drop of the liquid manure, and in the best possible way. The planks composing the floor of the cattle's quarters, or *byre*, as the Scotch call it, are laid with an opening between them of about one half inch, and so arranged as to be easily taken up. The idea is to place about two feet of loam or other earth, under the floor; this will absorb all the liquid part of the manure as it runs down through the openings, and in the spring will be converted into the finest manure, when it is to be removed and replaced by fresh mould. Instead of having the upper part of the barn tight, he has purposely had it finished with crevices between the boards above the byres, to admit the air; but the byres are made tight by battens nailed on the inside. Instead of losing all the room over the drive-way, as is the case in barns generally, there is a flooring over two-thirds the length, leaving room for a large load of hay on the floor below, a door being provided for the oxen to go out at the end of the drive-way, while room is thus made for at least twenty tons of hay more than if the barn was finished in the usual way. Byres are arranged on each side of the drive-way, and yards are being made on each side of the barn, so that the stronger cattle may be kept by themselves, and prevented from injuring the weaker. The yards are so arranged as to receive the sun, and protected by sheds from cold winds. In addition to the two large barns we have mentioned, we noticed others at distant points from the mansion.

Manures and Crops.—We have already remarked that fish and other sea manures were extensively used on Mr. Webster's farm. Of the beneficial effects of fish and kelp on corn and grass, we were an eye witness. A field of corn of fifteen acres, had been divided into four sections, and manured as follows: 1st section with fish; 2nd, kelp; 3rd, stable manure; 4th, guano. On the three first sections, the manures were spread upon the sward and turned under; the section where the guano was applied, was turned over without manure, and the corn dressed with the guano soon after it had appeared above ground, and a second dressing given at the last hoeing, at the rate of 300 lbs. to the acre. Forty loads to the acre of stable manure, were applied to the section dressed with that substance: the quantity of kelp applied was indefinite, the ground having been well covered with it, without counting the loads. Fish were applied at the rate of ten loads, of thirteen barrels each, to the acre. Taking the field as a whole, it gave the appearance of a remarkably heavy crop. The section manured with kelp took the lead; that with fish, next; that with stable manure, next; and the section with guano, behind the whole. The quality of the soil of the different sections was nearly equal, excepting that which was guanoed, which had the appearance of inferiority. The corn on this section, we were informed by the foreman, looked very unpromising in the fore part of the season, but was now evidently gaining more rapidly than that on either of the other sections, and he said it was impossible to make a just comparison until after harvest.

On a mowing field, we saw the effects of fish, that had been applied since the grass was cut. The contrast between that portion of the field which had been "fished," and that which had not, was very striking, in the deep green luxuriant growth of the aftermath on the one, and the russet brown, dead-like appearance of the other. But

who can describe the *odor* which came from that field! All the old fish-oil stores on Long Wharf combined, would not produce the like, or any approach to it; and then the swarms of large green flies that covered the fences and trees! The plague of flies in Egypt, could hardly have exceeded them in numbers. The decaying fish furnished them a rich feast. Luckily, this section of the farm is remote from any human dwelling. But however unpleasant this vile smell from the rotting fish may be to a stranger, a person soon becomes accustomed to it, and as the unpleasant gases arising from the decomposition of the fish are said not to be injurious to health, and as this manure will double or treble his crops, the farmer should not be deterred from using it by the disagreeable character of the smell.

We noticed a small patch of corn in another place, that had been manured with guano in the hill, and afterwards received a fish to each hill as a top-dressing: the corn was of the deepest green, and of the most luxuriant growth.

We have often heard it asserted that fish manure, after exciting the land to produce one or two heavy crops, leaves it in an exhausted state. This opinion is at variance with what we witnessed on a pasture that had been "fished" four years since. We compared it with a pasture adjoining, both originally of the same quality of soil, or differing but little. The pasture that had been "fished," was thickly coated with fine grass, and notwithstanding the drought, still produced the best of feed. The neighbouring pasture was dried up, mossy, and apparently of little value. Another pasture was shown to us, which had been manured with fish nine or ten years since, and before the application was almost worthless; it has since produced excellent feed, and is now in good heart. These results would seem to show that fish manure is not so evanescent as it has been represented by writers and others.

Mr. Webster said he considered one load of fish was equal to three loads of stable manure, and afterwards appealed to his head farmer, for *his* opinion upon the subject, who thought a load of fish equal in value to five loads of stable manure.

Sea weed is used in the piggery and barn yards, and every means of increasing manure from these sources, appear to be made use of.

Leached ashes have been used to some extent, and prove a valuable manure on the light soils which compose a part of Mr. Webster's farm. On a ten acre lot of very light land, 3000 bushels of English turnips were raised last season, with no other manure than leached ashes, and at an expense of only seventy-three dollars. About four acres of the same lot were sown down to clover, and the balance with oats, for the purpose of ploughing in when green, to enrich the soil. A very light dressing of guano was given these fields. The oats were so promising that Mr. Webster altered his mind with regard to their disposition, and concluded to let them stand and mature; and on this very light soil, with no other manuring than leached ashes last year and a small quantity of guano this, we now beheld, ready for the cradle, a heavy crop of oats. The clover on the other part of the field covered the ground and was soon to be ploughed in, as was also the stubble of the oats, for seeding down to rye.

A tract of ten acres, of the same quality of soil, was covered with a vigorous growth of buckwheat, which the ploughmen were engaged in turning under, preparatory to rye. Another large strip was devoted to beans, and four or five acres to ruta baga, sown broadcast, and not sufficiently advanced in growth to enable us to form an opinion of the probable result of the harvest. A lot of three or four acres was devoted to mangold wurtzel and sugar beets. In some parts of the field the crop had been thinned by the worms, and causes attributed to the season or the seed—but the plants generally were thick enough to ensure a heavy yield. Another large section was devoted to English turnips, which, of course, had not yet begun to make much show.

Fifteen or twenty acres of the farm are devoted to roots, which are fed to the stock in winter. Last autumn and winter, a lot was fed off the ground by sheep, according to the English practice.

Spring wheat has generally succeeded well on this farm, but the present season has been rather unfavourable. Samples that we examined from the crop stored in the barn, did not indicate a very heavy yield; the grains did not look so plump as samples we have seen from this farm.

The yield of English hay this season has been estimated at about 200 tons. The salt hay is mostly let out to farmers back from the shore, to cut on shares. The marshes yield about the same quantity of hay as the uplands. The quality of the marsh hay varies; some of it is almost equal in value to good English grass, while some is fit only for bedding or manure.

The farm appears to be well stocked with apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, &c. Among the apples we noticed the High-top Sweeting, a variety that may be found on about every farm in Plymouth county, and

in some orchards there appeared to be an over stock of this ancient and highly esteemed apple; but we are sorry to say there is hardly a thrifty tree to be seen; the variety seems to be on the decay.

The stock on Mr. Webster's farm, taking it altogether, cannot be surpassed by any in the State. The last season he wintered ninety head. The cows are generally of the Ayrshire breed, either full blooded or mixed. They originated from a cow imported by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, and a bull imported by Mr. Webster. This animal is finely proportioned, silky, short-haired, and equal to any creature of the kind we have ever seen. The cows are also beautiful, and give abundant evidence of their superiority in the quantity of milk they produce—having averaged, in the first of the season, 20 quarts each per day. He has eight milch cows of this breed. We saw in a pasture at some distance from the house, ten two-year old heifers of this blood, that could hardly be excelled in point of symmetry and general beauty, having the glossy hair and admirable mixture of colours peculiar to this breed.

For working oxen, Mr. Webster prefers the Devon breed, of which he had ten or twelve yoke, in excellent order, besides steers. He had sent a drove of fat oxen to the Brighton market a few days previous to our visit.

Of sheep, he has the celebrated Southdown and Leicester breeds,—more esteemed for their excellent mutton than for their wool. Wethers are purchased at Brighton market, in autumn, and kept through the winter on turnips, hay, and a little grain, and when fatted in the spring, sold to the butcher. This has proved to be good husbandry, affording some profit, and increasing the manure heap.

The Mackay breed of hogs is now the only sort kept on the farm—the Berkshire having been tried and discarded.

We conclude this hastily penned and imperfect account of our most agreeable visit to this extensive and well-conducted farm, by remarking, that the interest taken in agriculture by such men as Mr. Webster, Mr. Clay, Mr. Van Buren, and Mr. Calhoun —all of whom are engaged, and are proud to be, in the culture of the earth—is a scathing rebuke to those weak minded or wrongly educated persons, who look, or affect to look, with contempt upon, and to consider as degrading, the noble occupation of the farmer. And truly gratifying is it to see men of such signal abilities and exalted repute, though differing in politics, united and ardently devoted in the great cause of agriculture—the basis of national wealth and national prosperity—and whose followers constitute alike in peace and war the main bulwark of the country's welfare and security.—*New England Farmer.*

QUARRELS.—One of the most easy, the most common, most perfectly foolish things in the world, says an exchange paper, is to quarrel—no matter with whom—man, woman or child; or what pretence, provocation, or occasion whatever. There is no kind of necessity in it, no matter of use in it, and yet, strange as the fact may be, theologians, politicians, lawyers, doctors, and princes quarrel; nations, tribes, corporations, men, women, children, dogs and cats, birds and beasts, quarrel about all manner of things, and on all manner of occasions. If there is any thing in the world that will make a man feel bad, except pinching his fingers in the crack of a door, it is unquestionably a quarrel. No man ever fails to think less of himself than he did before one; it degrades him in his own eyes, and in the eyes of others, and what is worse, blunts his sensibility on the one hand, and increases the power of passionate irritability on the other. The truth is, the more quietly and peaceably we all get on, the better for our neighbours. In nine cases out of ten, the wisest course is, if a man cheats you, quit dealing with him; if he is abusive, quit his company; if he slanders you, take care to live so that nobody will believe him. No matter who he is or how he misuses you, the wisest way is generally just to let him alone, for there is nothing better than this calm, cool, quiet way of dealing with the wrongs we meet with.

AGRICULTURAL PREJUDICES.—At the Annual meeting of the Liverpool Agricultural Society last month, Lord Stanley, who presided on the occasion, in advocating the introduction of iron ploughs, to supersede the lumbering wood ploughs in common use, illustrated the prejudices cherished by some farmers, by an anecdote. He said a gentleman in the midland counties, who presented one of his farmers with a couple of iron ploughs, and having left the country for two years, returned, and was surprised to find not only that the number of iron ploughs was not increased, but no use was made of those he had given to the tenant. The answer he received on inquiring the cause of this was, "Why, you see we have a notion in this country, that *iron ploughs breed weeds!*"

Robert Bryson's Model Farm.

Within a year or two, an Agricultural Society has been formed in Cumberland County, with its central point at Carlisle. We insert the following from the Report of the Committee on Farms, acknowledging that we have read it with much interest.—Ed.

It is with feelings of great pleasure that we cordially unite in the expression of the opinion that the farm of Mr. Robert Bryson, and the condition of it—its cultivation, and the principles of it—afford a most gratifying example of the rich product which is made by energy, industry and skill. The farm consists of two hundred and fifty-seven acres of land, most of which is cleared, leaving only trees enough for shade. As you approach the farm you are at once struck with the cleanliness of field and fence-row, which indicates that nothing grows there but what is planted. A large stone mansion exhibits the comforts of a profitable farm, and a no less capacious barn shows that there must be a place for grain, for there is much here to be stored away. A particular description of this barn may be useful to the Society; it is in size ninety-eight feet six inches, by fifty-four feet, which includes a seven feet overshot, and thirty-four feet high to the square. It is built in the side of a bank, and has two sets of barn floors, one above the other—the first having an elevation of about eight feet, and the second is used as a threshing floor, from which the grain as it is threshed passes down into the first floor, where it is cleansed; the stables are below the whole. There is an advantage gained by this arrangement, in this, that you can get out any quantity of grain without being hindered by the accumulation of it upon the floor; and there can be no better illustration of this advantage than the fact, that Mr. Bryson's whole crop was threshed, cleaned, and ready for market, on the 25th of July of this year. With the peculiar capacity and arrangement of his barn, this was effected without any waste of straw, or throwing more into the barn yard than would be readily converted into manure; it was all stowed away in his capacious barn, ready to be used during the succeeding winter, as occasion will require;—the quantity of wheat was nineteen hundred and ninety-five bushels, which grew upon eighty acres of land—equal to twenty-five bushels to the acre; five acres of barley were also threshed, and produced two hundred and fifty bushels; forty tons of hay were made, well cured and stored away; the produce of ten acres of oats, which your committee supposed would yield 270 bushels, were also here; the corn was yet upon the ground, and it was the subject of particular examination, and the conclusion to which we came with regard to it was, that it would yield about fifty-five bushels to the acre;—notwithstanding this season has not been as favourable as usual, we have not seen in any year so large a crop of corn which was as good as this; thirty bushels of clover seed were also made. This is a limestone farm, and the manure used upon it is principally *lime*. The stock which we found here, were eighty head of steers, twenty milch cows and young cattle, one hundred hogs, fifteen sheep, six horses, and three yoke of oxen. The eighty head of steers were in a course of preparation for the market, and had been fed since the corn had passed the wasting ear state, by cutting it off and feeding it to them in the bulk—the cattle and hogs thus fed together, exhibited this system as a profitable one; scarcely two acres had yet been consumed, and the cattle were almost ready for the market. One would suppose that a farm like this would occupy all the attention of its owner, but not so with Mr. Bryson—on his farm three kilns were constantly employed burning lime, producing about 2000 bushels a week, hauled from the kiln as fast as it was burned to enrich the lands of the surrounding country. Mr. Bryson employs upon his farm about thirty hands, who are engaged in the tilling of the farm, and the burning and hauling of lime; the labour of these men is directed by Mr. Bryson in person, and with a system and economy of time which seem to be peculiar. At sunrise every man knows from the mouth of his employer what is his business for the day.

Stock imported by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society.

We learn from a late number of the *New England Farmer*, that the ship *Chaos* arrived at Boston in the early part of the Tenth month, in twenty-nine days from Liverpool, with the stock purchased for the State Agricultural Society, by Alexander Beckett, who was sent out to make a selection of the best animals that could be obtained, of the North Devon and Ayrshire breeds. "The passage," says the *Farmer*, "was rather rough, but every arrangement was made for the safety and comfort of the animals, that could be devised, and notwithstanding the unfavourable influences of a sea voyage, they came out in fine order, most of them fat enough for the shambles.

"They consist of four Ayrshire cows and one bull, and four North Devon cows and one bull, and a fine calf, which was dropped by one of the North Devon cows on the pas-

sage. Their stable was situated between decks, under the main hatchway—a location favourable for air, and to guard against injury from the rolling of the ship.

"The following ample daily allowance was provided for each animal for fifty days, viz: 10 lbs. of hay, 10 lbs. of oil cake, one quart of bran, one quart of crushed oats, and 10 gallons of water. The freight bill for the cattle, together with the expense of fitting up the stable, and for water casks, independent of the food, was £140 sterling, or about $700; this, with the first cost of the cattle, and expenses of Mr. Beckett, will make the round sum of something like $3000—a very generous outlay by the Society for the improvement of the stock of our State.

"The animals are very fine looking, and, we believe, gave perfect satisfaction to the President and other officers of the Society, who were present on the wharf to witness their landing. The cattle were driven out to Lexington, to the farm of E. Phinney, Esq., where they will remain for a short time, until the trustees of the Society determine where to locate them most advantageously for the public benefit.

"The North Devon cows were purchased of Lord Leicester, of Holkham, Norfolk county, England; the bull, from Mr. Bloomfield, Wanham, in the same county, of whose stock Mr. Colman has stated that he had seen none superior.

"The Ayrshires were also thorough bred, perfect in their kind, and the cows had the appearance of being fine milkers. Two were purchased from the stock of Mr. Andrew MacGregor, Damhead, near Kilmarnock, Scotland; one from Mr. John Young, of Kilmaurs Maine, near the same place; and one from Mr. Hamilton Capprainstone, Draghorn; the bull from Hugh Kilkwood, Highlongmair, near Kilmaurs, Scotland."

Subsoiling.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet:—

Sir,—Within the last few years agriculture has received, I am happy to believe, a new impulse. Each one seems struggling in the race of improvement to surpass his neighbour.

We find the practice of subsoiling gradually coming more and more into use, and wishing to avail myself of the greater experience of those who have followed the system longer than myself, I will take the liberty of proposing a few queries, in the hope of receiving satisfactory answers from some of your numerous subscribers:—When a piece of sward is subsoiled for corn, is it customary to use the subsoil plough again previous to laying the land down to grass, or is one operation considered sufficient for a course? if the subsoiling is repeated, of course it should be done at right angles with the first. I observed with the Prouty plough at the late Exhibition, that all the ground was not equally broken, consequently a ridge was left in each furrow: is not this a disadvantage? Again, in manuring the sod where the subsoil plough follows, will not the manure be apt to sink—a portion at least—to the bottom of the newly stirred earth, and by so doing get out of our reach, unless we adopt a system of trench ploughing, and thus throw up the subsoil, which probably, in spite of the portion of manure absorbed by it, would prove injurious to the ingoing crop. I know that a great difference of opinion exists, as to whether manures sink or rise; both parties in my opinion are partly right. The gaseous portions of all manures have a tendency to rise, and spreading them on the surface, constantly subject to the alternations of sunshine and rain, would undoubtedly subject us to great loss, the mere passing by a slaughter house, would, I should suppose, prove this without further argument: but that nearly all the salts, and a portion also of the undecayed vegetable matter would, by the use of the subsoil plough, sink too deep into the earth to be easily recovered, I have my fears; and this would be a loss that few farmers can bear, as but few, if any, have more than they can use. This objection has caused me to hesitate about putting the manure on the corn crop, although fully aware of the many advantages attending it; among which, and not the least, I think is the saving of loss by washing and fermentation in the yard, and saving of time in hauling it out at so short notice as one must when wheat follows corn, as in my rotations it does.

Can any of your readers inform me of the productiveness of the Guernsey parsnip in this country? Low speaks very highly of its nutritious properties, and calls it the large Jersey parsnip. Some place it for productiveness as equal to the sugar beet. I have endeavoured in vain to obtain the seed, and should feel obliged for information where it could be procured.

A Constant Reader.

November 3rd, 1845.

The seed of the *Guernsey*, or *Jersey* parsnip—the *panais* long of the French—*panais coquene* of Guernsey, spoken of by Low, and alluded to by our correspondent, will hardly be procured at any of our seed stores. It does not seem well adapted to this country; it grows too long, and is coarse and stringy. The *hollow crowned* parsnip—the *panais Lisbonaise*, of Guernsey, is well suited however to our wants, and the seed may be procured at Coates' in Market street. In his *General*

System of Gardening and Botany, Don says the parsnip is much esteemed for fattening cattle and pigs. It is considered more hardy than the carrot, and its produce is said to be greater. In fattening cattle, it is found equal, if not superior, performing the business with as much expedition, and affording meat of exquisite flavor, and of a fine juicy quality. It is reckoned that thirty perches, when the crop is good, will be sufficient to prepare a steer three or four years old completely for the knife, when taken entirely lean, in the course of three months. When given to milch cows, the parsnip is found to give the butter a peculiarly fine flavor.—Ed.

The Exports of Ohio for 1845.

The Cincinnati Chronicle says:—"We have before us the shipments from Cleveland, Ohio, and Cincinnati, for the year 1845, to the last week. As the season is nearly closed, we can give a tolerably accurate view of the exports of 1845, from this great agricultural State.

It must be remembered, that in estimating the exports of a year, commencing the first of January, we do not get precisely one season's production, but only one season's *transportation*. The production belongs to both the last and the present season.

The shipments of the surplus of flour this year will be very nearly as follows, reducing the wheat to its equivalent in flour:

Cleveland,	450,000	barrels.
Cincinnati,	160,000	"
Toledo,	100,000	"
Milan, Sandusky, &c.	150,000	"
Marietta, &c.	40,000	"
Portsmouth, &c.	30,000	"
Total,	930,000	barrels.

The other articles we estimate in money, thus:

Flour, in all 930,000 barrels,	$4,000,000
Pork, in all,	3,500,000
Cattle and Beef,	500,000
Wool, (2,000,000 lbs.)	500,000
Cheese, (5,000,000 lbs.)	300,000
Manufactures,	3,000,000
Total,	$11,800,000

We think these results are under-estimated, and that there are miscellaneous articles enough to make the net surplus in value twelve millions of dollars. The flour product is two millions of dollars less than it would have been had the two last harvests of wheat been good ones."

Give us large crops which leave the land better than they found it, making both the farmer and the farm rich at once.

Philadelphia Hay Market.

We take the following from the *Enquirer* of this city. Twenty thousand tons of hay brought annually to our market, is a far higher amount than one would, at first glance, have supposed probable. The growing wants, however, of Philadelphia, hold out inducements on every hand for the farmer to *persuade* his lands into productiveness, with a pretty certain hope of realizing full compensation for his good management. The crop of hay in this vicinity, and on our good farms, is a profitable one, and with articles of a perishable nature, such as the fruits of the garden in every variety; of the orchard, and products of the dairy, must more and more engage the attention of the market-man.—Ed.

We are indebted to Mr. Hugh Whitton, of the Farmers' Hay and Straw Market, for the annexed statement of the receipts of hay in Philadelphia, during the year ending 30th September, 1845, inclusive.

		Loads.
1844—	October,	1080
	November,	1075
	December,	1215
1845—	January,	1170
	February,	1135
	March,	1185
	April,	1305
	May,	1075
	June,	815
	July,	885
	August,	820
	September,	980
	Total loads,	12,740
Equal in tons to		11,461
Received (pressed, &c.) from all other places,		9,100
	Total tons,	20,561

The crop of 1844–45, was a fair one, and the prices ranged throughout the season at 80 to 90 cents per 112 lbs. for Timothy. But the present crop, owing to the drought of the preceding summer, proved very short throughout the State; farmers in many places not getting under cover a quantity sufficient to supply their own stocks. Prices in consequence range high, Timothy selling readily at $1 to $1 10, and Clover and Timothy mixed at 85 cents to $1 per cwt., as in quality.

Grapes designed for preservation till winter, should be gathered by cutting off the stems with scissors, and the cut end covered with sealing wax. If any of the berries have recently fallen off, the stem part should be served in the same manner. The wax prevents the grape from shrinking.

Raising Wheat and Cattle.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet:

Sir,—Mr. Gowen in his letter to General Richardson,—published in your last Number—advances the opinion, that, when land is worth fifty dollars an acre, wheat at one dollar a bushel will not pay expenses—advising to raise cattle in preference. This is leading the General, as I think, from the frying-pan into the fire.

A gentleman who has acquired wealth in mercantile pursuits, and subsequently devotes his time to agriculture, promotes an art which is the most important to human society, and renders himself a valuable citizen: he shows a very good example to some of his brother merchants, who spend their acquired wealth by aping in miniature the English nobility. Mr. Gowen richly deserves the esteem of his fellow citizens, but does he not show himself from home in advising a Virginia farmer? his opinion referred to above should be refuted.

One dollar per bushel for wheat, has been the average price for many years, and will probably remain so for years to come. If it is a losing concern, what will become of our farmers of Chester, Lancaster, Berks, and many other counties, who have paid fifty dollars per acre, and more for their land? If, according to Mr. Gowen's opinion, we can not compete with the Western farmer in raising wheat, still less can we compete in raising cattle. If Mr. Gowen will mount his horse and take a trip with a Pennsylvania drover to the Western counties of New York, and Upper and Lower Sandusky, in Ohio, he will find thousands of acres of land where hundreds of thousands of cattle are grazing, as well built as any Durham cattle. It appears as if those counties had been chains of lakes, intersected by ridges of high land: by some process of nature the water has been absorbed from them, leaving a crust of the richest alluvial soil, producing a grass that cannot be equalled by any manuring, on the lands in Pennsylvania, and less still in Virginia, where the climate is hotter and dryer, and less fit for pasture. We never must pretend to compete with those regions in raising cattle.

Mr. Gowen has been successful in selling at high prices his Durham breed of cattle, and could therefore bestow extraordinary care in their nursing. I have said on a former occasion, that our New York and Sandusky cattle are as good, if properly taken care of, as the imported breeds. Let any dairyman or practical farmer refute my assertion or confirm it. The degeneration of the breed of our cattle is owing to the negligence of farmers, and if they continue this negligence, in a few years the Durhams will also degenerate into scrubs. If Mr. Gowen will step over to his neighbours, the intelligent farmers of Chester county, he will find what I have asserted; they carry out his plan in part, leaving three-fourths of the arable land in grass for four or five years, refreshing it now and then with a top dressing of compost; the other fourth is rendered rich by copious manuring, and gives such a rich crop of wheat, that they are satisfied to receive one dollar per bushel. They fatten cattle for the market, but have not the folly to raise their own stock, except some amateurs among them, who have a well filled purse besides their farms, and wish to have something different from their neighbours. The judicious farmer, who looks for profits, buys his stock for fattening of New York and Ohio drovers, at less than half the price at which he could afford to raise it himself; and handsomer cattle are not brought to the Philadelphia market than these. I must confess Chester county is now in advance in agricultural improvement of old Berks.

H. S.

Bethel, Berks co., Nov. 28th, 1845.

American Apples in England.—We learn from the N. Y. True Sun a circumstance showing the results of careful culture as applied to fruit as well for home consumption as for fame abroad. Robert L. Pell, Esq., of Pelham, Westchester county, has an orchard of twenty thousand apple trees, all bearing Newton pippins. By trimming and the application of the best manures, he has brought the fruit to unusual size and excellence. The apples are picked and packed in barrels, without being rolled or jolted in carts, and so arrive in the very best order for shipment. Last year they were sold in London at $21 a barrel, and the merchant to whom they were consigned, wrote that the nobility and other people of great wealth had actually bought them at a guinea a dozen, which is some forty-five cents an apple. Mr. Pell has from three to four thousand barrels of the apples this year, which are sold as fast as they arrive at market, at $6 a barrel, and are all shipped to England. It is quite a business for one of our commission merchants to dispose of the produce of this noble plantation.—*Maine Farmer.*

The best fertilizer of any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence—without this, lime and gypsum, bones and green manure, marl and guano, will be of little use.

Rural Manners in England.

The true English gentleman, living remote from the din of cities, and abstracted from the turmoil of political life, upon his own acres; managing his own estate; seeking the best means for its improvement, and superintending, under his own personal inspection, their application; doing what good he can to all around him; making those dependent upon him comfortable and contented; giving labour, counsel, encouragement, and all needful aid, to his poor neighbours, and causing them, and their wives, and their children, to look up to him as a friend and a parent, to whose kindness their good conduct is always a certain claim; whom when the eye sees, it sparkles with grateful joy, and when the ear hears his footsteps, the sounds go like melody to the heart; who is in his neighbourhood the avowed and unostentatious supporter of good morals, temperance, education, peace, and religion; and in whose house you find an open-hearted hospitality, and abundant resources for innocent gratification, and for the improvement of the mind, with a perfect gentleness of manners, and unaffected piety presiding over the whole;—I say, such a man—and it has been my happiness to find many examples—need envy no one save the possessor of more power and a wider sphere of doing good; and need not covet the brightest triumphs of political ambition, nor the splendors and luxuries of royal courts.

Whatever contributes, then, in any way, to elevate the agricultural profession, to raise it, from a mere servile or mercenary labour, to the dignity of a liberal profession, and to commend it not merely for its profit and usefulness, but as a delightful resource and recreation for a cultivated mind, will certainly find favour with those who form rational views of life, who wish well to the cause of good morals, and would multiply and strengthen the safeguards of human virtue.

The class of individuals whom I have described—and I assure my readers I have drawn from real life, and deal in no fictions—find often their own efforts seconded and aided by those whose encouragement and sympathy always give new life and vigor to their exertions, and new pleasure to their pleasures,—I mean their own wives and children; and the farming operations, in all their history and details, and all their expediency and fitness, are as much matter of familiar and interested discussion at the fireside, as, in many other circles, the most recent novel, the change in fashion, or the latest triumph of party. Indeed, I have seen, in many cases, the wives and the daughters—and these, too, often persons of the highest rank and refinement—as well acquainted with every field and crop, their management and their yield, and with every implement and animal on the place, as the farmer himself; and I always put it down to the credit of their good sense.—*Colman's Tour, No.* 3.

From the Indiana Farmer and Gardener.

Profitable Farming.

Dear Sir,—Knowing you to be a friend of agriculture, and that you were pleased to manifest an interest in my farming operations when here, and perhaps thought as some of my neighbours did, that I was going to spend what I had made at other pursuits, in experimental farming, I give you the result of my operation.

I commenced on a very small scale in 1840, and was engaged much in other business until the fall of 1842. From that to the present season, I have devoted all my time to the farm.

I had on hand, and purchased in 1840, stock and teams worth	$530
1841, purchased stock to the amount of	100
1842, paid for stock and grain,	300
1843, " " "	650
1844, " " "	1,720
	$3,300
Expenses of putting up produce and sending to market,	1,500
	$4,800

Account of Sales.

1841, sold pork and beef for	$242 00		
1842, " " grain,	1,735 62		
1843, " " "	1,602 92		
1844, " " horses,	6,398 92		
Stock on hand, worth	1,020 54	$11,000	
		$7,200	

The stock on hand is worth more than the sum put down. I have placed that estimate in order to make an even sum. I do not keep a correct estimate of the expense for labour, &c., but I presume the whole cost of farm labour did not exceed $1000. From which I made a number of small improvements and repairs of fencing, &c. You will no doubt be surprised at the small amount of expense for labour; the reason for which I will endeavour to explain. I had a nephew 16 years old, and a son thirteen; when I commenced in 1840, I hired two boys at seven dollars per month each.

They worked eight months each, making $112. The extra hire for harvesting, &c., did not make the sum total exceed $200. The next year the same boys worked to the amount of $100, all other hire did not exceed $100. The next spring, 1842, I hired a family consisting of four women and three boys, found their provision, furnished their flax, wool, &c., and gave them $100 per annum. Extra work did not exceed $100. Next year 1843, the same; 1844 had one hand at $108 per year; extra labour, by day and month, did not exceed $100. So you will perceive that I have over estimated the aggregate for labour.

You will perceive from this, that my operations were very limited, for the amount of profit. I had but a small farm and no pasture when I commenced; I have since enlarged the freehold to some 2000 acres, with 12 to 1500 enclosed, and over 500 in grass and clover.

I cultivated the three last years about 100 acres in corn, and about the same in other grain, and raised cattle, hogs, and horses. I have the Berkshire and Grazier mix—a very fine breed of hogs. My horses are common.

I have shipped my pork, wheat, &c., to New Orleans the last three years, and not having a load, have purchased for debts, corn and other produce, to make up the load which is estimated above, on which I have lost money. I purchased pork to the amount of $1000, and corn $700 last year, and made some money on the pork, and lost some on the corn.

R. W. Thompson brought from the patent office some Mediterranean wheat, and gave me a small paper, not exceeding one pint, from which I had this year 200 bushels, the third crop. Taking the product of the three years it has doubled the average crop of the common wheat.

I am cultivating the artichokes for hogs. I planted less than a peck last year, from which I dug 28 bushels; planted them all this spring on four acres, and find them too thick. I intend turning the stock hogs upon them this fall, and I think they will tear up the ground so effectually, that the roots left, will seed it, and produce a good crop without cultivation.

You will perceive from my little operations in the farming line, that the man who has the land, or the means to purchase, can not do better than to engage in farming. There is no other pursuit so pleasant and free from care, perplexity, and risk, and none so independent. The only difficulty in this country is the uncertainty of labour of the right kind, and at the proper time. You will perceive from my account of purchase and sales, that I did not expend anything except to start, until I realized from the products of the farm. W. M.

Sept. 4th, 1845.

Poisonous Honey.

The venom of the wasp, bee, and hornet, is a most irritable poison; but it is quickly neutralized by the application of sweet oil to the punctured part. Here we may notice that the honey of the bee is sometimes poisonous. Xenophon records that, during the celebrated retreat of the ten thousand Greeks from Persia, the soldiers, when they came to a place near Trebizond, found many bee hives, the combs of which they sucked; but soon afterwards they became as though intoxicated, and were attacked with a virulent cholera morbus. The famous botanist, Tournefort, when at Trebizond, made some researches relative to this occurrence, and learned that it arose from the bees collecting their honey partly from a plant which is very abundant there, and the very blossoms of which, exhale a sweet but intoxicating perfume. This plant was most likely either the rose-laurel, (*Rhododendron ponticum*, or the yellow azalea, (*Azalea pontice;*) for Father Lamberti found both of these poisonous plants, together with poisonous honey, in Mingrelia. Colonel Rottiers, in 1816, observed the rose-laurel growing on all the mountains of Trebizond; and the inhabitants asserted, that "the *strong* honey" which the bees extract from its flowers is a kind of poison, causing stupor in a greater or less degree, according to the season of the year. M. Dupre, the French consul, assured Colonel Rottiers that he had experienced this effect himself. In the autumn and winter of 1790, there was an extensive mortality among the people of Philadelphia, who had eaten honey that had been collected near that city. The American government having instituted a minute inquiry into the cause of the honey proving fatal, it was satisfactorily ascertained that it had been chiefly extracted from the flowers of the *Kalmia Latifolia.* Plants of the genus *Andromeda*, also yield a poisonous honey. In the "American Philosophical Transactions" Dr. Barton states, that the dwarf-laurel, great-laurel, broad-leaved moor-wort, Pennsylvania mountain-laurel, wild honeysuckle, and the stramonium or Jamestown weed, yield a poisonous syrup, and that the honey which the bees make therefrom, has been fatal to man. These facts ought to induce the keepers of bees to be careful how they venture to cultivate plants of noxious qualities near their hives. The Greeks

and Romans were careful to eradicate all bitter tasting herbs from the vicinity of their apiaries, lest they should impart a bad quality to the honey. According to De Lille, the bee-keepers of Languedoc also pay great attention to this point. Even wild species of honey-bees will resort to noxious plants quite as readily as the domestic species—

"Like to those bees of Trebizond
Which, from the sunniest flowers that glad
With their pure smile the gardens round,
Draw venom forth which drives men mad."

An intoxicating and poisonous honey is extracted from the flowers of the monks-hood, or aconite, by the choura, or wild rock bee of Gurwhal (*Apis irritabilis.*)

These facts make it not improbable that many more persons die from eating poisonous animal food than is generally supposed, and without the cause of death ever being suspected.—*Chambers' Journal.*

Mr. Wilmot's Fruit Garden.

Isleworth, Sept. 25th, 1844.

Probably no such extensive establishments for the cultivation of fruit as those of Messrs. Wilmot, Keens, and others around London, are to be found. Their names are familiar to most of our readers, from their well known seedling strawberries, for a long time the only large kinds worthy of cultivation. Mr. Wilmot's grounds are only six or seven miles from the city, but they contain, in the different lots, upwards of 100 acres of land wholly occupied with fruit. Immense quantities of fruit are forced, and we think Mr. Wilmot informed us that his crop of grapes alone was several *tons*. Pine apples are also cultivated to a great extent, and we saw large quantities now just swelling off their fruit.

The principal forcing houses are situated in a walled enclosure of about half an acre, and seven ranges of glass 90 feet each are heated from one large boiler, measuring eight feet long; a main flow and return pipe leads from this along one end of the houses, and from it branch off six smaller pipes into each. They may all be heated at once, or only a single one; by means of stop-cocks at the junction of the branches with the main pipes, the water can be turned off or on at pleasure. Mr. Wilmot thinks this by far the most economical mode that can be adopted for heating such an extent of glass.

The grapes are forced early, and they were now all cut, the wood fully ripe, and the earliest houses would soon be set in operation again. Mr. Wilmot pointed out to us a new mode of planting vines for very early forcing. The usual mode is to plant them at the front wall, either inside or outside; the objections to this are, that the roots are exposed to a temperature many degrees lower than the branches, and, consequently, the grapes are inferior flavoured, and often do not colour well. Mr. Wilmot's plan is to plant them in the middle of the house, one vine under the middle of each *sash*, and not under the rafter; a main stem is taken up to the glass, where it is allowed to branch off in all directions. In this way, the roots receive the benefit of the heat imparted to the soil by the flues, and the vines receive all the light, which, in this climate, is more important than with us. For very early forcing, we think the plan worthy of imitation. One house was devoted wholly to *Muscats*, and we found here the Muscat of Alexandria; the Tottenham Park Muscat, which, Mr. Wilmot says, is quite distinct; the Portugal Muscat, similar to the Muscat of Alexandria, but a free bearer, and sets unusually well: the Cannon Hall Muscat, very fine; and the Cannon Hall Muscat Seedling, raised by Mr. Wilmot, new and fine.

In one of the other houses, we found a single bunch of that splendid grape, Wilmot's new Black Hamburgh, which has been stated by some to be the same as the old Black Hamburgh; it is, however, quite distinct. Having vines ourselves, we were not only anxious to settle this question, though we had perceived the leaves were quite different, but were desirous of testing its quality; this we were enabled to do by the kindness of Mr. Wilmot, and we can recommend it as one of the largest and most splendid varieties, and also of first-rate flavor. It has a firmer flesh than the old Black Hamburgh; the berries are perfectly round, and very large, but the bunch does not attain a large size. At the time we now write, we have this new kind in bearing; it was raised ten years ago. Mr. Wilmot recommended another seedling variety of the Hamburgh, which he also cultivates very largely. The Chasselas Musqué is another variety which sells well in the London market. Another quite new grape is the Prince Albert, which is said to be superior to the Black Hamburgh; Mr. Wilmot had only one vine of this. West's St. Peter's is a fine late grape distinct from the old St. Peter's.

On the walled enclosure, are trained pears, and among them, we saw the Van Mons Leon Le Clerc in bearing. In the orchard, the trees were bending beneath the weight of the fruit, and the Beurré Diels, as stand-

ards, were producing very large specimens. In the fruit room, were bushels of the Louise Bonne de Jersey, laid on shelves to ripen off; this variety succeeds well in this way, and it may be kept in eating from September to December. It is, without exception, one of the finest fall pears which has yet been introduced.

Mr. Wilmot still continues to bring forward his pines by dung heat, and the men were now lining the succession fruiting pits. Where manure is not expensive, it is probably a more economical way than fire heat.

It was a source of surprise to see the immense quantities of fruit which are daily sent to market by the proprietor. With the exception of rhubarb, he does not cultivate any thing but fruit: of the former vegetable, he grows a great quantity every year.—*Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture.*

The Potatoe Rot.

Upon this subject, so interesting to our agricultural readers, we publish the following extracts from late English papers. We can but remark in introduction, how much more terrible is the calamity to to the overdone population of Europe than to us, as is evidenced in the efforts recommended by the correspondent of the Bristol paper to make a portion of the vegetable still available as food.—*Saturday Post.*

From the Gardeners' Chronicle.

A fatal malady has broken out among the potatoe crop. On all sides we hear of the destruction that has overtaken this valuable product, excepting in the North of England. In Belgium the fields are said to have been entirely desolated. There is hardly a sound sample in Covent-garden market. This disease consists in a gradual decay of the leaves and the stem, which become a putrid mass, and the tubers are affected by degrees in a similar way. The first obvious sign is the appearance on the edge of the leaf of a black spot, which gradually spreads; then gangrene attacks the haulm, and in a few days the latter is decayed, emitting a peculiar and rather offensive odor. When it is severe, the tubers also decay; in other cases they are comparatively uninjured.

The cause of this calamity is, we think, traceable to the season. During all the first weeks of August the temperature has been cold—from two to three degrees below the average; we have had incessant rain and no sunshine. It is hardly possible to conceive that such a continuation of circumstances should have produced any other result, all things considered. The potatoe absorbs a very large quantity of water. Its whole construction is framed with a view to doing so; and its broad succulent leaves are provided to enable it to part with this water. But a low temperature is unfavourable to the motion of the fluids, or the action of the cells of the plant; and moreover, sunlight is required to enable the water sent into the leaves to be perspired. In feeble light the amount of perspiration from a plant is comparatively small; in bright sunshine it is copious; in fact the amount of perspiration is in exact proportion to the quantity of light that falls upon a leaf. At night, or in darkness, there is no appreciable action of this kind. During the present season all this important class of functions has been deranged. The potatoes have been compelled to absorb an unusual quantity of water; the lowness of temperature has prevented their digesting it, and the absence of sunlight has rendered it impossible for them to get rid of it by perspiration. Under these circumstances it is necessarily stagnated in the interior; and the inevitable result of that was rot, for a reason to be presently explained.

Although we first see the symptoms of the disease in the leaves and then in the haulm, we believe that it commences under ground, in the haulm which is just below the old set. There water collects the most, there the temperature is lowest, and there the old set itself, acting like a sponge, and itself decaying, feeds the live stem with semi-putrid matter.

The mischief, although very general, is not universal. It is, however, appearing in some of the gardens round London; and it has begun to attack a field near ourselves, on the London clay, which, as it offers what we think a good illustration of the way in which the potatoe crop is affected by such a season as this, we shall proceed to describe. The field is bounded on two sides by a deep ditch, newly cut, and on the others by a hard roadway. It was last year a pasture. During the autumn it was trenched three spit deep; but in such a way that the turf was turned down about a spit below the surface. It was planted partly in December, and partly in April. Here, on this cold soil, lying on a dead level, with scarcely any means of effectual drainage, the potatoe murrain might have been expected, and here it has made its appearance, but not to any great extent. Symptoms are discoverable here and there; but only in one place has the haulm actually decayed. That place was a low part of the field, and had been made of road sand and similar rubbish, very retentive of water. Elsewhere the

leaves are yellow, an invariable symptom of an over cold and damp land; in situations better drained, as, for example, all along the ditch, the foliage is green, vigorous, and healthy.

As to cure for this distemper—there is none. We are visited by a great calamity, which we must bear. At the same time, although it is not within human means to alter the course of the season, or to prevent the maladies attendant on them, prudence may perhaps suggest some alleviation of the evil. Should we have fine weather, the disease will probably disappear; should rain and cold continue it will spread. In the latter case, the only thing to be done will be to dig up the crop immediately. Much loss will be thus sustained, and the quality of late potatoes will be bad; but the loss will be less than to let the potatoes all rot in the cold ground, and we conceive that some of the crops will be eatable, though not what could be wished.

Although the potatoes taken up thus early will suffer in quality from their unripeness, even this evil may be partially remedied by putting them in heaps, consisting of alternate layers of dry earth and tubers. In such a situation it is probable that no farther decay will take place, and it is certain that the ripening process will continue to proceed, although less effectually than under natural circumstances. We may add, that such late potatoes as we have examined are much more advanced toward ripeness than might be supposed. They are already very full of starch, and their gummy matter is disappearing fast.

As to the fitness of decayed potatoes for food, we doubt extremely the prudence of using them, if the disease is more than skin deep, so that it may be pared away. Putrid matter of any kind, or even matter approaching putridity, is unfit for being introduced into the stomach, and has very often proved fatal. The Belgian police, acting upon this well known fact, have been destroying the decayed potatoes in the public markets of Antwerp, and they have acted wisely.

The following letter on this subject, by Mr. Herapath, appeared in the *Bristol Mercury* of the 6th of September:

"Sir,—My attention has been given to the disease which has shown itself so extensively among the growing potatoes. I find, in almost every instance, that the epidermis of the stalk, below the surface of the ground, is more or less in a state of decay, often disintegrated, and completely rotten; the leaves and branches accord with the state of that part of the stalk below the ground. The tuber beneath the outer skin is first spotted brown—like a bruised apple: these spots extend and penetrate toward the centre, quite changing the nature of the potatoe. Those near the surface are most injured; in some cases the lowest on the root are not at all affected, while the upper ones are useless. I should therefore expect that the longer the crop remains in the land the greater the injury will be. It seems from the microscopic appearance, that the starch escapes injury for a long time after the skin and cellular parts are gone; and as the whole of the nutritive powers of the potatoe reside in the starch, I should recommend that wherever the disease has shown itself to any extent, the crop should be dug, whether ripe or not, and the starch extracted by the following simple process:

"After washing the roots, let them be rasped fine, and thrown into a large tub or other vessel; pour a considerable quantity of water, and well agitate and rub the pulp with the hands; all the starch or fecula will, from its great weight, fall to the bottom; while the skin and fibrous matter will be carried away by the water; wash the starch with one or two more waters, allowing it to fall after each washing; spread it upon cloths in a warm room to dry. In this way about twenty or twenty-one pounds will be obtained from every one hundred pounds of potatoes, and it contains as much nourishment as the original roots; it will keep any length of time, and might be used with flour to make bread, pies, puddings, &c., as well as farinaceous spoon meat.

"This is much better than throwing away the diseased roots, and will furnish food for tens of thousands, who might otherwise want it. William Herapath."

From a Correspondent.

Among the potatoes introduced into the London markets, a great proportion have proved to be affected by the prevalent disease. The roots so attacked give out no peculiar appearance to the eye by which the presence of disease may be indicated, but in boiling, it is at once perceptible, from the dark mass which they present in the interior. The dealers are aware of this, and in many of the poorer districts of the metropolis, potatoes were sold on Saturday at 4 lbs. and 6 lbs. for 2d. Whatever may have been the cause, it is certain that externally the disease indicates itself by a fungus or moss, producing a decomposition of the farinaceous interior. It therefore resembles, in many respects, the ergot attacking grain and grasses: which, it was proved at the last meeting of the British Association at Cam-

bridge, had greatly increased the last two or three years, probably owing to the great additional increase of animal manures. It may be remarked that in the Isle of Wight, where the disease has occurred in its most virulent form, we lately had the opportunity of observing, in many instances, that it was most prevalent in those crops which had been planted on wheat land, which had previously been manured with guano. The use of these diseased potatoes for domestic purposes cannot be too much condemned.—*Times.*

From the New England Farmer.

Plaster of Paris.

A FEW of the last days of July, the past summer, I spent, in company with several others, as one of the viewing committee of the Merrimack County Agricultural Society, on farms, &c. In rambling over the farm of A. Brown, Esq., Northfield, N. H., I noticed that the stones in his wall were nearly all pure granite. I observed to him that plaster of Paris would be a *good* manure for his soil, and said, have you ever tried it? Yes, he says, I have, and it is useful upon my soil, and when we come to my corn-field, I will show you its effects. No more was said upon the subject at that time; after looking at a field of wheat and some other crops, we came to the corn-field. There were four acres—a good soil—well manured, and free from weeds; the corn was very heavy; in passing through it, we came to four rows of very small corn, not more than half as heavy as the rest. Upon expressing our surprise, he informed us that those four rows had no plaster; the rest of the field had a tea-spoonful of plaster dropped in each hill at the time the corn was planted, and that was all that made the difference. But some of the committee expressed surprise that the corn on such good land and well manured, should not be any better, even if it did not have plaster. "Oh!" says Mr. B., "it is a great deal poorer for the others having plaster,—the plaster draws the nitre, or air, or something from the unplastered, and robs it." The thought occurred to me that this was confirming what Prof. Sprengel says is the effect of marling alternate strips of land in Holstein: the unmarled strips are much less productive in consequence of marling the other strips. But one thing is a fact: one teaspoonful of plaster on his corn, made about as much difference as three of guano did upon mine; and had not the whole field been any better than the unplastered rows were, he never would have entered it for a premium: that is another fact. A few days since, I saw a son of Mr. Brown, and he informed me that there was about as much difference in the corn at harvest, as there was when I saw it the 30th of July. I cannot yet believe that a teaspoonful of lime in the hill would have made the difference in his corn that the plaster did—but I will write to him to make experiments the coming season, and have no doubt that he will, and report the results.

The next day I was upon the farm of Captain S. Chadwick, in Boscawen. Here I observed a different kind of rock and stone prevailed. Many of them, in the walls and about the fields, had disintegrated, and others were in a state of rapid decomposition by the agency of oxygen and moisture. I observed to Captain C. that I thought plaster was of but little or no use upon his farm. "Well, it is not," says he; "I have tried it, *out and out*: the money is thrown away in the purchase of it, and the labour is lost in applying it."

LEVI BARTLETT.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Sowing Corn for Winter Feed.

To the Editor:

SIR,—As each one now engaged in agricultural pursuits is endeavouring to increase the amount of his fodder, either green or dry, I would, through your columns, make a few enquiries as to the best mode of converting Indian corn sown broadcast, into dry fodder. The light crops of hay this year, induced me the past summer, to plough down, after mowing, about two acres of sod, which I sowed with corn broadcast; it grew finely, and when in tassel, I had it cut down to be converted into winter feed. After leaving it lay for several days to wilt, the weather becoming threatening, I had it gathered and placed in small shocks, bound at the top to keep it up and the rain out; after being left sometime, as I hoped to cure, finding it beginning to heat and mould, I had it opened and leaned against the fence to dry; here it remained some time, double, at least, the time that grass would have required to cure, when rain again threatening, I had it removed into an open barrack; lest the sap which remained in the stalk, might cause it to heat, I had salt sprinkled on it, but all in vain, for in spite of all the care taken, the remaining sap caused such fermentation, that the whole mass has become utterly worthless. It may by some, I know, be said, it should not have been moved until entirely dry, but to those dependant, as farmers are, on the weather, a crop that will take so much time to cure—for this was at least three weeks—

cannot prove a desirable one, occupying so much of their busiest season; but perhaps others who have tried it, may know of some better mode of curing, and in this hope, I have trespassed on your time, for I think it a most desirable assistant of the farmer's winter stores, could any plan of preserving it be adopted, not involving too much labour. Of its great use as a green crop for soiling, no one I think can doubt, who will once try it, but from my experience, I am led to fear that its extreme succulence will prevent its being advantageously cultivated to dry. Can any of your subscribers speak experimentally of the comparative productiveness and nutritious qualities of the Sugar and Red beet—I have been informed by some persons accustomed to their culture, that the latter is to be preferred, as containing far more nourishment.

With respect, &c.,
A Subscriber.

Nov. 1st, 1845.

We should greatly doubt the expediency of placing much reliance upon the curing of corn for winter feed. It is so succulent, and requires so long a continuance of fair and drying weather, that the chance is against its getting nicely and sweetly cured. Should it however be attempted, we should cut it early, when the tassel had scarcely begun to make its appearance. It would need a great deal of drying to prevent fermentation, even though well salted. As a summer crop to be used in soiling, it is highly valuable—but for winter feed, we should apprehend millet to be far preferable.—Ed.

The Oaks Cow.

At the Greene County Fair, held at Catskill, a good common-sense, practical, agricultural Address was delivered by Zadock Pratt, member of Congress from that district. The following is an extract:—

"In the Agricultural Journals I have read an account of a middle-sized country cow; I refer to the celebrated Oaks Cow, bought out of a drove in Massachusetts, for a mere trifle. Her history illustrates two things worthy of note: First, what we can obtain from the best of our old breed; and, secondly, how much depends on good feeding; and just as it was with the Oaks Cow, so will every man find it with his farm. If he won't feed his farm, and that often and well, he need not expect it long to feed him. Always taking out of the meal-tub, and never putting in, will soon come to the bottom, as poor Richard says. But to return to the Oaks Cow that did so much honour to the name of Caleb Oaks; it is stated, on the most unquestionable authority, such as satisfied the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, that in the first year, with ordinary keep, she made but 180 pounds of butter:—the next year she had twelve bushels of corn meal, and then gave 300 pounds of butter; the next, thirty-five bushels, and she gave more than 400 pounds; the next year she had a bushel of meal a week, and all her own milk skimmed, and then she gave, from the 5th of April to the 25th of September, the day of the Show, 484 pounds, besides suckling her calf for five weeks. She was exhibited, and deservedly took the premium on the last mentioned day; and will carry down her owner's name with credit to posterity, as long as Oaks grow.

"We cannot contradict nature, but can co-operate with her, and working in her methods, and in conformity to her laws, produce all the results that the Creator ever designed to put within our reach. A man passing a few years ago, by a field of ripe wheat on Long Island, was struck by the rich appearance of two or three heads that grew near the road, and hung down as if the grain was of great weight. He stopped and plucked those heads, and sowed them the next season in a place by themselves, and so cultivated them year after year, until they have increased to over a hundred bushels, that for colour, weight, and uniform plumpness of the kernels, are, perhaps, not surpassed in the country; at least they are expected to take the prize at the approaching fair of the American Institute. This shows what we should do if we wish to carry out nature's plans, and finish what she had begun. The very best specimens should be chosen from those that have been grown on our own, or on a neighbouring farm, instead of sending to a distance for such, as when we get them, will be forced, by the irreversible laws of soil and climate, to change their character and adapt themselves to their new locality."

The Potatoe Rot in New Jersey.—We learn by the Burlington Gazette, that Nathan Stowell, of that place, has been directing his attention for four years past, to the subject of rot in the potatoe, in hopes of discovering the cause of a disease which begins to threaten very serious consequences. N. Stowell thinks the rot is owing to the sound seed having all run out, and that too little new seed has been produced. He has himself produced a fine crop of new potatoes from tubers of the Foxite variety, and out of nearly fifty bushels not a single potatoe is diseased. The vines were free from blight. A patch of Mercers, close by, were grievously afflicted with the rot.

Communicated for the Farmers' Cabinet.

Agricultural Society of Chester and Delaware Counties.

At an adjourned meeting of this Society, held 15th ult., the following officers were elected:

President—Abraham R. McIlvain.

Vice Presidents—Paschall Worth, Joseph P. McClellan, Marshall Hickman, Townsend Haines.

Treasurer—George Brinton, jr.

Recording Secretary—John Rutter.

Assistant Recording Secretary—William P. Townsend.

Corresponding Secretary—A L. Elwyn.

Directors—E. T. Rivinus, John Worth, Levis James, Chalkley Harvey, Joseph Jefferies, Benjamin Hickman, Lewis P. Hoopes, John S. Bowen, Marshall Hickman.

On motion, it was resolved that the constitution of the Society be so altered as to embrace within its leading objects, in addition to agriculture, the interests of horticulture, domestic manufactures, and the mechanic arts. Manufacturers, mechanics, and the lovers of horticulture, are invited to join the Agricultural Society, and contribute their joint efforts to its success, under its new organization, as it is intended that the annual exhibitions shall hereafter be enlivened by contributions and specimens from all these sources, which will be creditable to the intelligence and industry, and skill of the two counties. The Fairs of the American Institute, in New York, had but a very small beginning—smaller than can now be made by Chester county; and if the proper spirit can be brought out, there is no reason why, in course of time, our county exhibition should be inferior to it.

On motion, it was resolved that Dr. A. L. Elwyn and Joseph Jefferies be appointed a committee to prepare for the next stated meeting an essay on guano, stating the results of experiments which have been made in this county—if any; its action on particular crops, the mode of its application, and its desirableness to the farmers in this section of country, as regards cheapness and efficiency.

Dr. George Thomas and Richard I. Downing were appointed a committee to prepare for the next stated meeting a similar essay on Poudrette, with a like examination into its character and efficiency as a manure for the general or particular purposes of the farm.

Paschall Worth, Dr. Charles W. Parish, Joshua Embree and Paschall Morris, were appointed a committee to prepare for the next stated meeting an essay on Apples and Apple Orchards, with an examination into the causes of the decline in quality and quantity of some of the best known varieties in this section, the proper remedy for it, and the most approved modes of managing and planting orchards, and bringing them forward to early productiveness and thrift.

George Brinton, jr., Paschall Worth and Paschall Morris, were appointed a committee to write, for the next stated meeting, an essay on the subject of barn-yard manures; the most advantageous mode of management in the yard, and application in the field, together with such facts and evidences as can be collected, to throw light on this important subject.

Soiling, or House-feeding Cattle.

At a late meeting of the Farmers' Club in Scotland, Mr. Harkness read a communication from Mr. Skilling, of Glasnevin, from which we make the following extracts:

"How does it happen that the Belgians have kept up in the highest condition an indifferent soil, without any such extraneous manures as bones or guano, or any other importation of the kind? This they have done for hundreds of years, and yet their land is never poor or exhausted, but in the highest state of productiveness. The reason is obvious. There is no witchery in their management; and if the farmers of Scotland would only follow their example they would find themselves fully recompensed for their pains. If they would deepen their lands, keep more stock, and chiefly house-feed them, saving the manure—liquid and solid—raise an abundance of crop for soiling summer and winter food, they would make more from their cattle and their land.

"When I first adopted the house-feeding system, my neighbours laughed at me, and predicted that my cattle would die; others said the cows would give no milk; but their predictions were not verified. My cows had a good appearance, and when driven to water twice a day, [not enough—cows need drink four times a day, at least]—they were wild and full of spirit; and when others were dry, mine were giving milk.

"I have estimated correctly, that a cow fed in the house will make twenty-five tons of liquid manure, which will be sufficient for an acre of ground. I can, on an average, keep a cow on every two British acres. The cows also give much more milk.

"When my present farm was in pasture, only eighteen cows could be kept in summer. Now, by the soiling system, it feeds from twenty to twenty-two cows, three horses, and twenty to forty pigs, all the year

round, and I have as large a portion of grain crops as most other people have on farms of equal extent—52 acres.

"No doubt, the system, if ill-wrought, will fail. Some who try it, will bring their cows into the house; they are tied up and perhaps injudiciously confined—kept filthy—not regularly curried—a large quantity of some particular kind of food is put before them, and this repeated, cloys the appetite, and the animals refuse their food. They are perhaps neglected in water—by-and-by they fail in milk—get out of condition—and the whole experiment is a failure, from being wrongly conducted. The house itself must be airy, well ventilated, and kept perfectly clean. The animals must be well curried and brushed at least twice a day. There ought to be one particular person to superintend and pay attention to the feeding; and one of the first and most important parts of his duty is, to ascertain the appetite of every beast. Cows, like other animals, will eat more or less; and they ought to be supplied accordingly as they require it, being kept rather with an appetite than otherwise. As soon as the animal has eaten its food, all refuse should be taken away, and nothing suffered to remain in the stall before it. Should it seem delicate or careless in eating, let the food be at once removed. The times of feeding are also of great importance, and ought to be strictly observed and regulated. The cattle will know the hour of feeding as correctly as the clock can tell it, and will be disappointed and fretted if neglected. This neglect is prejudicial both to milking and fattening. I give six feeds in the day, summer and winter—beginning at six o'clock in the morning, and ending at nine in the evening—viz: at 6, at 8, at 12, at 3, and at 9. They get water in their stalls at 10 in the morning, and at 5 in the afternoon. They are likewise turned out one hour from 10 to 11, where they exercise and drink if they choose.

"The kinds of food I use are chiefly the following: in summer, at 6, feed with perennial or Italian rye-grass and clover; at 8, with cabbages or leaves; at 12, with cut hay and straw, mixed—this feed is to prevent the action of too much green food on them—at 3, upon vetches; at 6, upon mangold wurzel, leaves, or refuse of the farm or garden; at 9, clover or grass; or this may be a dry feed, if the state of the bowels require it.

"In winter, at 5, feed with steamed food; at 8, with turnips, raw; at 12, cut hay and straw; at 3, with mangold wurzel, raw; at 6, with steamed food; at 8, with turnips, raw; at 6, with steamed food; at 9, with hay and straw. Water must be given or offered, and plenty of salt used in the steamed food."

With respect to ventilation of cattle houses, Mr. M'Culloch stated that he considered too little attention had been paid to this important matter, as nothing tended to promote the health of animals more than well ventilated houses. There should be a small aperture below and above in the wall, behind each animal, so that by the admission of fresh air beneath, the respired vitiated air—carbonic acid gas—which is very injurious to animal life, together with the pernicious effluvia from the skin, urine and dung, may be forced out by the upper aperture, and in this way have a constant renewal of air. Mr. M'C. was astonished to observe that even in the establishments of our most eminent agriculturists, this important subject was so much overlooked. You will often observe openings in the upper part of the hovel, or in the roof, for the escape of the contaminated air, but it seems to be forgotten that there must be an admission of fresh air *below*, to cause the effective expulsion of the contaminated atmosphere.—*American Farmer.*

Potatoes.—A curious fact has been stated to us by a person in the neighbourhood of Carriagline. It is, that having planted potatoes in alternate beds of sea-weed and farm manure, the potatoes in the latter are entirely destroyed by the prevalent disease, while those planted in the beds covered with sea-weed, have escaped untouched. The proportion which the infected bear to the healthy roots varies. In some places the destruction seems almost complete, and the progress of the disease is so rapid that in many others it threatens to become so. Even after brought home and housed, the potatoes are attacked. Several people who purchased in the market last week, and found them excellent for a few days, have since been obliged to throw the remainder out, so that it is impossible, from present appearances, even to guess at the quantity which may ultimately be secured for an acre or a field.—*Cork (Ireland) Advertiser, October 9th.*

Heavy Fleece.—Mr. Buel Warner, of Cornwall, Vermont, states that his sheep was yeaned the first week in April, 1844, and was sheared the 23rd of June last. The fleece weighed 9 lbs. 5 oz., well washed and in good condition. Accompanying this account was a sample of the wool. It is clean, and of remarkable quality for such weight.—*Cultivator.*

Ice Houses.

A short time before I left England, you published in the Gardeners' Chronicle a number of letters and plans for the construction of ice-houses, but, as far as I can remember, nothing at all resembling the Chinese one, which I shall now describe to you. On the left bank of the Ningpo river, proceeding upwards from the town and forts of Chinghai, and in various other parts in the north of China, I have met with these ice-houses. When I inspected them for the first time, last winter (1843,) their construction and situation differed so much from what I had been accustomed to consider the essentials of an ice-house at home, that I had great doubt of their efficiency; but at the present time, which is the end of August, 1844, many of these houses are yet full of ice, and seem to answer the end most admirably. You are probably aware, from my former descriptions of the country, that the town of Ningpo is built in the midst of a level plain, from 20 to 30 miles across. These ice-houses stand on the river sides, in the centres of this plain, completely exposed to the sun—a sun, too, very different in its effect from what we experience in England,—clear, fierce, and burning—which would try the efficiency of our best English ice-houses, as well as it does the constitution of an Englishman in China.

The bottom of the ice-house is nearly on a level with the surrounding fields, and is generally about 20 yards long by 14 broad. The walls, which are built with mud and stone, are very thick, 12 feet in height, and are, in fact, a kind of embankment rather than walls, having a door through them on one side, and a kind of sloping terrace on the other, by which the ice can be thrown into the house. On the top of the walls or embankment a tall span roof is raised, constructed of bamboos thickly thatched with straw, giving the whole an appearance exactly resembling an English hay-stack. And this is the simple structure which keeps ice so well during the summer months, under the burning sun of China! The Chinaman, with his characteristic ingenuity, manages also to fill his ice-house in a most simple way, and at a very trifling expense. Around the house he has a small flat level field, which he takes care to overflow in winter before the cold weather comes. It then freezes, and furnishes the necessary supply at the door. Again, in spring the same fields are ploughed up, and planted with rice; and any water which comes from the bottom of the ice-house, is conveyed into them by a drain constructed for the purpose. Of course here, as in England, the ice is carefully covered up with a thick coating of straw when the house is filled. Thus the Chinaman, with little expense in building his ice-house, and an economical mode of filling it, manages to secure an abundant supply for preserving his fish during the hot summer months. This, I believe, is the only, or at least the principal purpose to which it is applied in this country, and never for cooling wine, water, or making ices, as we do in Europe.

It is now, I think, a question whether we could not build ice-houses at less expense, and more efficient, upon the Chinese plan than upon the old under-ground system common in England.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

The Corn Trade.

The all engrossing topic continues to be the disease in the potatoe crop. The fine weather experienced during the past three or four weeks, has been favourable for digging up this root, and the greater proportion has now been raised; the time has therefore arrived at which something like an estimate of the extent of the failure may be formed. We have been at considerable pains to collect information on this important subject; and from the general tenor of our advices, we fear that the damage is quite as great as it has been represented. The most serious cause of apprehension is, however, the fact that a large proportion of the crop which, at the time of raising, appeared sound, has been found not to keep. That such is unfortunately the case, has been recently proved by the condition in which many of the cargoes from the north have reached the London market. It is to be presumed that at the time of shipment care was taken to select only such potatoes as were to appearance sound; for it can scarcely be supposed that parties making consignments would be so regardless of their own interest as to ship a quality unsuited for a sea voyage. We consequently take it for granted that every attention was bestowed in selecting the cargoes before the potatoes were put on shipboard; if right in this, the condition in which they have arrived certainly affords abundant grounds to fear that a small proportion only of that part of the crop secured in a seemingly healthy state will be preserved through the winter, unless extraordinary care be taken for their preservation. We have it from good authority that a large number of cargoes of potatoes have within the short space of a fortnight, arrived in the Thames in such a state as to be not only wholly unfit for food, but so completely rotten as not to be worth the freight.

The most obvious conclusion, in our opinion, is, that shippers in the Channel Islands, Yorkshire, &c., will, after the experience they have gained from their first shipments, prefer selling produce at home at a lower price, rather than run the risk of a total loss; and we must, therefore, expect an early and very material falling off in the arrivals of this useful article of food. Should we be correct in this supposition, the price of potatoes—already high—must shortly rise still higher; and we should certainly not be surprised to see the article more valuable, weight for weight, than some of the lower descriptions of grain, or even bread itself. Taking into consideration the amount of nutriment contained in the same quantity of wheaten bread and potatoes, it may be even questioned which is the cheaper at present; and, under all circumstances, a very large consumption of flour must inevitably take place during the ensuing winter.—*Mark Lane Express.*

Growth of the West.

An ear of Indian corn was handed me last Saturday, as a specimen of the crop raised by *Major Wm. Irwin*, on his farm three miles out on the Lebanon road. He assures me that hundreds of ears as large, or nearly so, may be found in what have been gathered from the same field. It is of the large yellow grained sort, is thirteen inches long, and has fourteen rows, and eight hundred and ninety-six grains on the ear. I should like to send it to one of our Atlantic cities, that our friends at the east may have ocular evidence of the growth of the great west. If any gentleman on his way to the east, will be the bearer of it, he may be able to gratify the curiosity this statement is calculated to excite there. It is due to the Buckeye State to let our eastern brethren see some of our products. A sight of this ear of corn will illustrate and explain the *rapid growth of Ohio.*

The Cincinnati Weekly Advertiser of the 5th ult., was handed us a few days ago by a friend from that city, containing the above statement. The ear of corn alluded to, was also handed us: it is a fine one, but if it is sample No. 1, that the "Great West" can produce, the Editor can assure his "Buck-eye" brother of the "Weekly Press," that he has himself grown, and husked with his own hands, many a finer one in New Jersey. They must be larger ears of corn that are there noticed as rarities.—Ed.

Of all the serial grains and esculent roots, the potatoe is the only one whose history is known. Wheat, rye, barley, &c., date far back into the dark ages.

Soap Suds.—If the suds usually made in the farmer's family, were to to be rigidly economized and applied to his tillage and grass lands, the addition to the crops would remunerate him amply for the labour and expense required in making the application, besides being an important and permanent advantage to the soil. By conducting it into a tank, or reservoir, properly constructed, it would furnish the means of adding to his manure heap in the ratio of at least a cart-load to every hogshead of suds; and this, for most purposes, would be equal to the best manure manufactured in his yard and styes. It is matter of surprise that farmers who are by no means remiss in the performance of obvious duties, connected with the management of their farms, do not take more pains to save this article. We have often alluded to its fertilizing properties, and we can assure our readers that we think it important.—*Maine Cultivator.*

Average Rent of Land in England and Wales.—The average rent of land in England is said to be 18*s.* 10*d.*, and that of Wales, 9*s.* 5*d.* The produce of wheat in England and Wales is probably under twenty-one bushels per acre.

THE FARMERS' CABINET,

AND

AMERICAN HERD-BOOK.

Philadelphia, Twelfth Month, 1845.

Another extract from the fourth Number of *Colman's Tour* will be found on the 139th page, in relation to the great flesh market of Smithfield, London. These details are not only highly interesting to those among us who have no immediate connection with such matters, but important and instructive to our drovers, our butchers, and particularly our graziers. We know something of the risks and impositions to which the latter class are most unreasonably subjected, and are sure they ought to be remedied; and we are equally certain that the remedy is in their own hands. Let them apply it.

We do not supply as many of our subscribers and friends as we would like, with the above work. The fourth Number gives more particularly an account of the English markets—both cattle, grain and vegetable, and we know not where else so much valuable detail on these subjects may be found.

A copy in neat pamphlet form of the Agricultural Society's Transactions of New Castle County, Delaware, has been received from Dr. Thomson, who will accept thanks for the kindness. We shall make some extracts from it for the next Number of the Cabinet.

The accounts from England seem to sustain the advanced prices of grain. Our own short crop of oats, and the great diminution from the usual yield of hay, together with the high price of potatoes, would probably of themselves, without any extraordinary demand from abroad, secure to the farmer a fair price for his produce this winter. Flour is worth from $6 50, to $7. Wheat, $1 25 to $1 35. Rye, 76 cents. Old corn, 75 to 80 cents, and new, 55 to 60 cents. Oats 45 cents. Good round potatoes are worth 65 cents; and first-rate Timothy hay will bring $20 to $22 a ton.

The Editor has perhaps more than once adverted to the increase of comfort that would be made to the farmer's family, by the introduction of a coal stove into his kitchen. There is scarcely any department in his domestic arrangements in which he should feel a livelier interest, or where increased accommodations would be more sensibly felt. When the coal fire is properly managed it need not *go out* at night, but keeps alive without much or any consumption of coal, and consequently in the morning the fire is lively at once—the room is warm—and if an early breakfast is needed for the early stirring teamster—our Jersey friends will understand this, who start by *day-break* for the *marl pit* or the *cedar swamp*—the tea kettle may be found boiling by the first one that is up. With respect to the question of economy, we apprehend that where merchantable wood is burned, and within easy reach of navigation, coal will be found as cheap as wood. But even if coal were a little more expensive, the additional comfort is worth paying something for. Our farming readers who have not already made this improvement, will give it a turn in their minds.

Poudrette.

A valuable manure—of the best quality, prepared in Philadelphia, for sale at the office of the Farmers' Cabinet, No. 50, North Fourth Street, or at the manufactory, near the Penitentiary on Coates' street. Present price, $1 75 per barrel, containing four bushels—$5 for three barrels—$15 for ten barrels, or thirty cents a bushel. Orders from a distance, enclosing the cash, with cost of porterage, will be promptly attended to, by carefully delivering the barrels on board of such conveyance as may be designated. The results on corn and wheat have been generally very satisfactory. Farmers to the south and in the interior, both of this State and of New Jersey, are invited to try it.

JOSIAH TATUM.

☞ SHORT ADVERTISEMENTS, ☜

The subject matter of which, may correspond with the agricultural character of this paper, will be inserted at the rate of one dollar for each insertion of ten lines or less; and so in proportion for each additional line. Payment in advance.

The quantity of rain which fell in the Eleventh month, 1845, was two inches and a half. ..... 2.5 in.

Penn. Hospital, 12th mo. 1st.

COATES' SEED STORE,

OF MORE THAN FORTY YEARS STANDING,

Where may constantly be had

Clover, Timothy, Orchard, Herd,

AND OTHER

GRASS SEEDS,

TOGETHER WITH A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF

GARDEN SEEDS,

Of the finest Quality and best Varieties,

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The subscriber has for sale about 7,000 peach trees of good size, and of the following approved kinds, viz: Large Early York, Troth's Early Red, Old Mixon, Red Cheek Malacotan, Red Rare Ripe, Yellow Rare Ripe, Caliber's Pavia, Late Yellow Cling, Ward's Late Free and Late Heath.

The assortments may be depended upon.

GEORGE MICKLE.

Woodbury, N. J., 12th mo. 15th, 1845.

Enquiry may be made at this office.

GUANO.

Twenty-five tons first quality Ichaboe Guano, in bags or barrels, for sale in lots to suit purchasers, by

S. & J. J. ALLEN & CO.,
No. 7 South Wharves, 2nd Oil Store below Market street, Philadelphia.

October 15th, 1845. 6t.

D. O. PROUTY,

Manufacturer of Agricultural Implements, and dealer in Garden and Grass Seeds,

No. 194½ MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA:

Offers for sale the following articles now in season, viz: Grant's Patent Fan Mill, for chaffing and screening wheat and seeds at one operation. This mill carried off the first premium at the State Fair in New York, Sept., 1845, and the first premium at the Philadelphia Agricultural Exhibition in October, 1845. Corn Shellers in great variety, and warranted to work well. Price from $2 to $30, each.

Straw, Hay, and Corn-stalk Cutters of different patterns, among which is Hovey's Patent, an excellent article, at a low price.

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" ANIMAL CHEMISTRY,	25
" FAMILIAR LETTERS,	12½

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☞ We are prepared to bind books to order.

Seed Store,

No. 23 Market Street, Philadelphia.

The subscriber keeps constantly a supply of White and Red clover, and other grass seeds. Field seeds, consisting of Spring and Winter Wheats, Potatoe, Oats, Barley, and choice varieties of Seed-corn. Also in season, Fruit and Shade Trees. Garden and Bird seeds generally. Guano in parcels to suit purchasers.

M. S. POWELL.

Philad., March 15th. tf.

Agency for the Purchase & Sale of

IMPROVED BREEDS OF CATTLE & SHEEP.

The subscriber takes this method of informing his friends and the public, that he will attend to the purchase and sale of the improved breeds of cattle, sheep, &c., for a reasonable commission. All letters post paid, addressed to him at Philadelphia, will be attended to without delay. AARON CLEMENT.

March 15th, 1845.

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Joseph Rakestraw, Printer